

LWV

the VOTER

*League of Women Voters of
Greater Las Cruces*

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**The League of Women Voters of
Greater Las Cruces**

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NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO JULY ISSUE OF THE VOTER

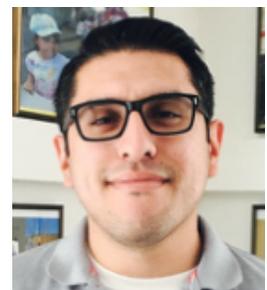
‘TIS TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES!

DINNER WITH A LEADER, JUNE 11, 2018, GOOD SAMARITAN, 5 P.M.

DACA: MY LIFE AS A DREAMER

This month’s Dinner with a speaker will feature two young people who are fighting hard to protect DACA. **Alex Luna** is a community organizer at NM Comunidades en Accion de Fe, (CAFÉ), and **Daniela Gonzalez** is a DACA recipient. Alex will share his work with CAFÉ to help Dreamers and other projects and Daniela will share her experience.

Alex joined the NM CAFé team in 2016 and started as a youth leader in



the Inland Empire of Southern California. He then became an organizer with our sister organization Inland Congregations United for Change (ICUC) for the last five years. Alex brings extensive civic engagement and campaign issue organizing to CAFe and Southern New Mexico.

NM CAFe is a multifaith, multicultural organization that involves local community members from a variety of backgrounds and beliefs. Participants have worked for economic changes (raising the minimum wage and keeping homeowners safe from foreclosure), immigration reform, and preservation of the beauty of our local environment. Board members and leaders of CAFe join together on these and other issues to engage in advocacy of policies that meet these shared policy goals (www.organizenm.org).

Daniela Gonzalez, a Personal Narrative

I am Daniela Gonzalez. I am currently 19 years old and I am a junior at New Mexico State University. I am a DACA recipient. I have been in the United States since I was four. I started school here, and all my friends are here. I don't remember Mexico where I am originally from - my life is here in the United States.

Being successful is hard but working hard is the key behind that; and I consider that I am a hard worker and that someday I will be able to be successful.

On May 24, 2017, I graduated from Alta Vista Early College High School, not only with a High School Diploma but I also received an Associate's of Arts. On May 12, 2017, I graduated at NMSU. I was valedictorian of my class with a grade point average of a 4.2, which encouraged me to continue my studies at New Mexico State University. I am currently working on a Bachelor in Government with a minor in Public Law and I am also thinking of adding another minor such as Business Administration, or Management.

My family has been through some trouble as ICE detained my dad in November; fortunately he was released under bond on January. The bond was a lot of money but my family used all the money to pay for the bond, and now is time for me to renew my DACA permit, and we don't have the money to do it. I have already applied for an internship this summer but my DACA expires this October: I have to start the process in April.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings LWVGLC!

Are you enjoying the hot weather yet? Fortunately we had a beautiful day at our 50th anniversary picnic. I have to say that a fun time was had by all and our little tree looked stunning all decorated with red, white and blue ribbons. A big shout out to Gwen Hanson for a fantastic job in organizing the event. Take a look at the pictures and read Marjorie's speech using trees as a metaphor for the League. It's brilliant.



I hate to do this but we are appealing for donations. Printing costs keep going up and as you know, The Voter and the Who's Who are two of the most important services we provide. We are going to exceed our budget if we don't raise some money to cover cost increases. The increase in dues won't begin to cover it. Your consideration is greatly appreciated. Also, please read the Highlights to the May Board Meeting. There are some requests for help (see Voter Services, Advocacy, and Communication Needs). Please volunteer if you can! June's Dinner with a Speaker will be a worthwhile event. Alex Luna, from Café, and Juliana Gonzales, a DACA recipient, will be with us to share CAFÉ's work, and what life is like right now for Dreamers. Come prepared to learn and listen to personal testimonies. There will be no membership meeting in July. Summer Break. However, the 50th Anniversary Committee is planning on sponsoring a forum on mental health July 18th at Branigan Cultural Center and the LWVGLC history panels will be on display there as well. Other than that, big election coming up. I'm assuming you have all voted by now but if you haven't, you better get moving!

Best to All,

Kim Sorensen
President

NOTE LWVGLC CORRECT ADDRESS

To pay your dues

**The League of Women Voters of
Greater Las Cruces
P.O. Box 15142
Las Cruces, NM. 88004**

Dues Reminder: Dues are due!! Mail (\$65 or \$32.50 additional family) to **Box 15142, 88004.**

Highlights of the May 5th Board Meeting

New league buttons are in and will be distributed at the general meetings.

Publishing contract for The Voter is in the works with a planned publishing date of late September or early October.

Student Membership is now free. The board voted to waive dues for students in response to LWVUS's waiving the PMP.

Forums: We will be partnering with KRWGTV in providing forums for candidates in the general election. Expect August, September and early October to be very busy.

Program Fiesta: Working on a possible Friday, September 7 Program Fiesta. Promise to make it a big fun-filled evening.

Voting Fiesta: Erika and the YEC are working a GOTV with Students on 10/09/2018, the last day to register and first day to vote early for the general election. The idea would be to help young people become oriented to county facilities and the voting process in a fun way so they could vote conveniently and comfortably with a group of their peer.

New Student Intern: Samantha Garza will be helping with the Voter Impediments Study and FB.

Voter Service Needs: We need a Voter Services Ad Hoc Committee to help write questions, work at forums, and act as reviewers for publications. Vicki is working on members

Advocacy Needs: We need a pool of letter writers. People could write about what they know about, such as supporting consolidated elections and ranked voting. In August, we need letters reminding people to register, and later, to look for the Voter’s Guide.

Communication Needs: Information to Members on local and state politics.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 5 **PRIMARY ELECTION – REMEMBER TO VOTE**
- June 7 LWVGLC Board Meeting, 10-12 a.m. Branigan Library
- June 11 Dinner with a Leader, 5-7 p.m. Good Samaritan Activity Room
- June 21 Youth Engagement Committee, 3:30 Branigan Library Board Room (3rd Thursday meeting)
- June 19 50th Anniversary Committee, 5:30 p.m. Good Samaritan Bldg. E, 2nd Floor West Lounge
- June 28 Book Club, 2 p.m. Erika Graf-Webster’s house (4th Thursdays)
- June 28 - LWVUS National Convention
- July 1

UPCOMING BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

Selected for June 28 at Erika’s	<p>How the Right Lost Its Mind, by Charles Sykes</p> <p>Once at the center of the American conservative movement, bestselling author and radio host Charles Sykes is a fierce opponent of Donald Trump and the right-wing media that enabled his rise. In <i>How the Right Lost Its Mind</i>, Sykes presents an impassioned, regretful, and deeply thoughtful account of how the American conservative movement came to lose its values. How did a movement that was defined by its belief in limited government, individual liberty, free markets, traditional values, and civility find itself embracing bigotry, political intransigence, demagoguery, and outright falsehood?</p>
Selected for July 26	<p>Women & Power: A Manifesto by Mary Beard (Best Seller)</p> <p>At long last, Mary Beard addresses in one brave book the misogynists and trolls who mercilessly attack and demean women the world over, including, very often, Mary herself. In <i>Women & Power</i>, she traces the origins of this misogyny to its ancient roots, examining the pitfalls of gender and the ways that history has mistreated strong women since time immemorial. Beard asks: If women aren’t perceived to be within the structure of power, isn’t it power itself we need to redefine? How many more centuries should we be expected to wait?</p>



PLANTING A TREE for our 50th anniversary

By Marjorie Burr

(Remarks made on the occasion of dedicating a tree in Pioneer Women's Park to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces.)

When we are planting a tree to commemorate the history of an organization, there is a strong temptation to draw analogies between the tree and the organization. I have not resisted the temptation.

Both a tree and the League needed a good soil in which to grow. Leagues in Farmington and Gallup started at the same time as the one Las Cruces survived just a few years. What might have been differences? Different communities, different soils. Las Cruces in the late 1960s was in a growth mode—NMSU was having an enrollment growth spurt. White Sands Missile Range was working on developing rockets for the moon shot, and engineers and technicians were coming into town at a great rate. When my family moved here in 1966 the city's population was around 47,000. People said that when the population reached 50,000, the growth would take off. That didn't exactly happen, but, now, half a century later, the city's population is 110,000, a sizeable, steady increase.

There were a lot of new, young people in town. There were also women who had been here a long time. These were the women who organized as the Women's Improvement Association. The group built the WIA Building next to this park, set up a lending library, bought a hearse for the town, and got this park dedicated as a public space. They were the women who in groups helped tame the Wild West. I particularly remember Carmen Freudenthal, who lived in this neighborhood. In her 80s, maybe 90s, she was one of the feistiest women I've ever known.

A tree and an organization need a strong foundation—good roots-- in order to thrive. State League members, as they mentored us in our early years, gave us strong roots in how to do things "the League way." This distinguished us from other groups like AAUW or Rotary Club. These early roots provided the foundation in the missions of voter services and study and action that are the basis of our organization today. I particularly remember Sandy Cohn, state board member from Albuquerque, who led us through the early days.

A tree and an organization both need a trunk, a mission. The League of Women Voters has two trunks—two missions: First, the vote. Our legacy from our founding mothers the suffragists is to use the vote and to inform and educate ourselves to vote intelligently. Although thinking particularly of the newly enfranchised women, the League included all citizens in this mission. Today, more than ever, protecting the vote is important to America's civic life. Our other mission is activity in issue politics. We are nonpartisan in regard to candidates—we neither support nor oppose any candidate. But we are politically active when it comes to governmental issues. As a group, we choose issues, study, them, come to consensus and ACT. I think the



League of Women Voters is held in high regard in the community for our service to voters, and also for our work toward good government policy.

To continue the tree analogy, we are a deciduous group. Like a deciduous tree in this climate, we have some leaves that are hangers-on for many years. But we also attract new members—grow new leaves—each year. This gives us vitality. It ensures we

change with the times.

And, finally, we'll talk about branches. In my yard we have a tree that occasionally sends a branch out of the crown that changes the shape of the tree, until it grows up to envelop the branch. Over the years the League has made some important changes in our organization. Admitting men to membership is a big one. Our members now include "a few good men." The organization has enveloped them, and they have contributed to the League's strength. I believe that another branch, our recent commitment to youth engagement in civic life, is a direction that will re-vitalize not only the League, but also our civic life.

Fifty years ago, in 1968, not many—certainly not I—foresaw this day. But today we have a tree to help us visualize the future. I do not plan to be here 50 years from now. But some of YOU will be. I hope you will take pictures of the tree today and occasionally through the years. And in 2068, you will look at the tree, and look at our 100-year history, and say, "My, how we've grown!"



Treasurer's Report

12 May 2018

League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

For 3 May 2018 Board Meeting

Activity since last Board Meeting

EXPENSES

Century Link	\$8.79	(final bill)
50 th Supplies	\$235.95	
LC Sun-News	\$1,154.29	(for Fall 2017 Voters Guide, reimbursement requested)
League buttons	\$150.00	(from LWV Missouri)
50 th Picnic Box Lunches	\$348.50	(33 lunches)
Memorial tree	\$250.00	
Trf donation to Ed Fund	<u>\$250.00</u>	
TOTAL	\$2,397.53	

INCOME

50 th Picnic	\$660.00
For Memorial Tree	\$250.00
Friend donation	\$65.00
Member donations	<u>\$405.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,380.00

12 MAY 2018 CHECKBOOK BALANCE \$7251.85

Education Fund Balance should be \$4,986.08, with a pending request for reimbursement of \$1,154.29 and a check for \$20.00 awaiting deposit.

DISCUSSION

\$1,132.50 has been paid in dues for the 2018-2019 League Year. I have not checked the PayPal account yet.

Submitted by William Little, Treasurer

THE INFORMED VOTER

VOTING IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION JUNE 5, 2018

The purpose of this section of the VOTER is to direct you to YOUR SAMPLE BALLOT. You can go to the NM Secretary of State, enter your name and address and print a sample ballot with *YOUR* candidates on it.

http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Voter_Information/Absentee_and_Early_Voting.aspx

TO NAVIGATE, look at the UPPER LEFT HAND of the MENU – **VOTER INFORMATION**, PULL DOWN to show a full menu – Look to the RIGHT HAND LIST. It shows

- YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION W/ LINK TO YOUR SAMPLE BALLOT
 - SAMPLE BALLOT CONTAINS YOUR LOCAL VOTING DISTRICT CANDIDATES AND STATE AND FEDERAL CANDIDATES
 - ENABLES YOU TO PLAN YOUR VOTE BEFORE YOU GO

Early voting will be through June 2. There are six alternate early voting **locations**: Anthony Elementary School, DACC Sunland Park, Delores C. Wright Educational Center, Hatch High School, Sonoma Elementary School and Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. **The election is June 5.**

The primary election this year has many **candidates** for several offices. To see who they are go to the LWVGLC website <http://www.lwvglc.org/>

On the LWVGLC website look just below the photograph to find important links:

- Candidates, State of New Mexico (State and Federal Offices)
- Candidates, Doña Ana County (County Offices and District Representatives)
- Doña Ana County Election Information

PDF candidate files can be downloaded from the website. Thanks to Dale Yeo for compiling readable and accurate lists of the candidates. You can print these off to have a ready resource.

Local **probate judges** are on the Candidates, Doña Ana County list. **State and other judges** are listed on the Candidates, State of New Mexico (State and Federal Offices) pdf. Many judges are running unopposed. Candidates for judge are evaluated at the State level, but evaluations are not yet posted. The NM Judicial Performance Evaluation website will have information later in the year. <https://www.nmjpec.org/en/>

Information about candidates in the primary election is available by viewing KRWG candidate forums and by reading the newspaper. The Sun-News anticipates articles on all the candidates.

OBSERVERS POSTS

OBSERVER HELP WANTED

The League needs an Observer at 2 meetings in June.

- **June 13** at 3 pm - the Utilities Customer Advisory Group will meet for approximately 1 hour. This will be the meeting at which the Group gives its final recommendation to the LC Utilities Board regarding the proposed raise in water rates.
- **June 14** at 3 pm at the Las Cruces Utilities Board. The water rate raise issue will be finalized before it goes to the Las Cruces City Council. Other summary reports are scheduled. Meetings generally last 1-2 hours.

If you can be the Observer for either or both of these meetings please contact Vicki Simons at 644-6400. She will have all the details for you, including exactly where the meetings are held and a copy of the agendas.

June 2018

OBSERVER REPORT by Mary Ellen Knapp

Las Cruces, NM City Council, May 7, 2018

Regular Meeting

Mayor and All Councilors Present

APPROVED – Resolution to amend the City's adopted budget and amend the Capital Improvement Plan for Project Name: Interstate 25/University Interchange Landscaping in the amount of \$1,250,000.00. New Mexico Department of Transportation is in the design phase for major improvements to the University Interchange. It is the City's desire to landscape the NE and NW quadrants of this important entrance to the city. New Mexico State University will landscape the SW quadrant. NMDOT will not commence with design for the additional landscaping until the City has allocated funding for this project. (4 ayes - 3 no's)

(A previous motion to Table the Resolution to the first July City Council meeting was defeated – 3 ayes – 4 no's)

TABLED TO JULY 2, 2018 – Resolution adopting the Apodaca Blueprint, which is a planning initiative for the area around Apodaca Park, the former Las Cruces Country Club property, adjacent neighborhoods and Villa Mora Dam. Numerous surveys, meetings, neighborhood design workshops to establish fundamental planning issues, and a public open house were held to receive input for the proposed design.

Two members of the audience spoke against specific issues in the plan; another objected to the short time given to review the final blueprint; and one spoke in favor of the plan. The Resolution was tabled until the July 2 regular meeting to give additional opportunity for public input. (7 ayes)

OBSERVER REPORT 05/18/2018

Legislative Education Study Committee

Centennial High school, May 17, Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

Submitted by Johnnie R. Aldrich

This 10-member (+21 advisors) committee, comprised of senators and representatives from our New Mexico Legislature, met here for 3 days to assess current conditions in public education in southern NM and provide a forum in which school personnel and other citizens can present their opinions on education matters to legislators. Chair Mimi Stewart called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m.; a quorum was achieved by 10:00 a.m.

Topics Covered:

- 1) Fiscal Year Predictions for 2019
- 2) Authorization, Performance, and Accountability in Virtual Charter Schools (online K-12 education)
- 3) Initial presentation of House Joint Resolution 10, to be offered by our District 32 Representative Doreen Gallegos, to establish a Permanent Emergency Education Fund.

1) Fiscal Analyst Joseph Simon explained the “unit value” system on which funding is based. Projections of student enrollment are a major component. Simon called frequently for the Public Education Department to be “less conservative” in its projections so that funding could be more accurate. He also emphasized the “ongoing uncertainty at the federal level” in determining amounts to be received from the national government.

2) A source of controversy. Our New Mexico Public Education Commission, of the Public Education Department, authorizes the existence of online education provided by for-profit entities. The PEC has withdrawn authorization in 2 NM sites during the past year because of low participation, low performance reports, and lack of security. Nonetheless, presenters recommended that online education statewide not be discontinued because of great need by some, especially in rural areas and for disabled students.

3) Representative Gallegos approached the committee to ask for its help in completing a bill that she plans to present to the Legislature. The bill would establish a Permanent Emergency Education Fund to make monies for education available even when other resources are reduced by economic downturns. Reactions of committee members were primarily positive, with specific suggestions about strengthening the proposal. Chair Stewart expressed reservations on the grounds that “permanent funds” (like the one established with funds from the tobacco-industry) are often “raided” by other legislative needs when the budget needs cannot be met otherwise. She had other objections, but conceded that “I could be talked into [supporting] it,” depending upon the final version.