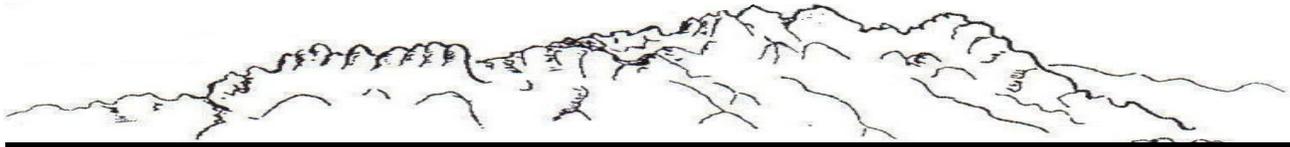


The VOTER

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



New Mexico Legislative Roundup

**Monday, May 13, 2013, 11:30 a.m., Good Samaritan
Social Center, Creative Arts Room**



The sixty-day session of the 2013 NM Legislature is over. As in the past, we have invited a state legislator to summarize legislative action, what did and did not get passed, and what the governor signed or vetoed. This year, Joseph Cervantes, serving his first year as a State Senator, will be giving us this summary.

Senator Cervantes is not a new face within the Doña Ana legislative delegation. He represented southern Doña Ana County for five terms in the State House of Representatives before his election to the State Senate. He has accepted previous invitations to our League's Legislative Breakfasts. He is a League member, and more than once has promoted membership in the League among his legislative colleagues.

About a third of NM legislators were new during the 2013 session because the 2010 Federal Census caused district boundaries to be redrawn. Although he is familiar with the procedures of the state legislature, it will be interesting to have Senator Cervantes' view "from the Senate." Lots of bills (e.g., minimum wage, the health care exchange, education, and the last minute passage of the tax bill) passed between the two chambers.

We invite you to join us for lunch and Senator Cervantes' presentation.

CALENDAR

May 2 (Thursday) - 2-4 p.m., **Board Meeting**, Las Cruces City Hall, Room 2007A. All are welcome!

May 6 (Monday) - **Deadline for Reservations for Lunch with a Leader**. RSVP Roberta Gran, Email: robertagran@q.com, Tel: 373-8490

May 13 (Monday) - 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., **Lunch with a Leader, NM Legislative Roundup**, Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. \$10. **Reservations Required**. If you don't cancel your reservation, you will be charged for lunch.

May 16 (Thursday) - 2-4 p.m., **Current Events Book Club**, Selection: ***Approaching Singularity: The Genesis of Creation*** by S. Jason Cunningham, at the home of Marjorie Burr, Tel: 522-2528.

May 18 and 19 (Saturday and Sunday) **2013 Convention of League of Women Voters of New Mexico**, hosted by LWV of Greater Las Cruces, (See details, p. 6)

Notable Dates: May 12 - Mother's Day

May 17 - Brown v. Board of Education (1954)

The VOTER

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Usually Published Monthly

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

P.O. Box 8322
Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322
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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****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**Newsletter Editor**
Bonnie Burn - 526-0013
burnb@comcast.net*President's Message*

First, let me thank the membership for the truly extraordinary honor of being elected as your president. The reputation of the League is exceptional, and to be able to become part of its long traditions is very gratifying and humbling.

Next, it is important once again to recognize and give huge THANKS to Bonnie Burn for her work and accomplishments in her four years as president. Her devotion to the League is exemplary, and that has transformed our League. She was a presence for the League in numerous governmental meetings and committees, performed many speaking engagements, and consequently has raised the community's awareness of the League and its work. Bonnie has indeed set a very high bar for the presidency.

We elected two new Board members at our Annual meeting – Christina Little as Secretary and Johnnie Aldrich as Membership Director. Roberta Gran has assumed a new position as Vice President (completing my original term). Ruth Benjamins continues as Treasurer, and Gwen Hanson and Gracia Class continue as Voter Services Directors. The new Board will have its first organizational meeting on May 2 where we will discuss and decide on the issues and activities that will be our focus for the coming year.

My approach to management has always been very “open door” and participatory, and that is what I will bring to this position as president. I am very interested in hearing all the members' ideas on what they would like the League to be and how it should function so that it represents more completely the ideals of the League and the desires of the members. One aspect of the League that is of particular interest to me is “how do we get to know each other better?” My own experience (and other fairly new members agree) is that you don't get to know your fellow members unless you are on a committee with them. So, what ideas to do YOU have for getting to know each other better?

Finally, please feel free to call me at any time to bend my ear about anything – 575-521-0600.

*Erika***Membership Dues - June 30 Deadline**

Individual - \$60 - 2nd Household \$30

LWV of Greater Las Cruces,
P.O. Box 8322, Las Cruces, NM 88006

LOOK BACK: Border Patrol, Las Cruces Station
Richard Hudson, Patrol Agent-in-Charge - Bob Burn, Reporting

The United States Customs and Border Patrol Agency was started in 1924 to patrol 6,000 miles of United States borders with Canada and Mexico. The Border Patrol is responsible for immigration enforcement within the United States while the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency has responsibility for the ports of entry. Prior to 1924, individual citizens using their own horses and guns were paid by the federal government to patrol our borders. The Border Patrol was shifted from agency to agency within the federal government over the years, finally moving from the Department of Justice to Homeland Security in 2003 with a mission emphasis shift from immigration to anti-terrorism.

In 1994, when Agent Hudson joined the Border Patrol, the agency had 2,318 agents. His first duty station was in San Diego. Routinely, as many as 1,500 undocumented immigrants were apprehended each eight-hour duty shift. In those days, immigrants were simply sent back across the border to Mexico. Many would be captured and returned multiple times each day. The first border fence was constructed in San Diego using World War II rubber airfield temporary landing mats. The fences did not stop undocumented immigrants, but they delayed them long enough for the Border Patrol to respond to attempted crossings.

Border Patrol strategy in 1994 was: (1) build Infrastructure such as fences in high traffic areas such as El Paso, Tucson, and San Diego where undocumented immigrants could easily blend into the population after they entered the country and that served as pathways to larger cities such as Phoenix and Los Angeles; (2) provide agents to apprehend undocumented immigrants; and (3) provide surveillance technology such as cameras and motion sensors along the border. The strategy has shifted in 2013 to: (1) information gathering including from international governments, law enforcement agencies, and informants to anticipate illegal border crossings particularly those criminal or terrorist in nature; (2) integration with strategic partners in the United States including locally the New Mexico State Police, Doña Ana Sheriff's Office, and the Las Cruces Police Department; and (3) rapid response through advance information and preparation.

In 2000, there were 1.6 million nationwide apprehensions of undocumented immigrants, many of which were multiple apprehensions of single individuals; 115,000 in the El Paso district alone. In 2006, there were 122,000 apprehensions in El Paso. By 2012, the Border Patrol was increased almost tenfold to 21,370 agents, and nationwide apprehensions decreased to 365,000, partly due to increased patrolling and better surveillance, but also due to our depressed economy and Mexico's improved economy. Today, illegal entry into the United States is a minor felony that is

(Continued on page 5)



New Member

Joy E. Goldbaum
 732 N. Miranda St.
 Las Cruces, NM 88005
 Tel: (575) 527-8620
 Email: joybaum@aol.com

Email Change

Sue Cain: suecain1940@gmail.com

**MEMBERSHIP
 DIRECTORY**



Email any changes to your
 contact information to:

Bonnie Burn, burnb@comcast.net

Friends of the League

John Ameriks, M.D.
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 Donald Dresp
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 Roberta Gran
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 Barbara Myers
 Francisco Mario Ortiz Law Firm
 Jean Ossorio
 Kathryn Schultz
 Clifford Pelton
 Marie Sutter-Sinder
 David Sudimack, DDS
 Sunspot Solar Energy
 Donna and Tom Tate
 Williams Design Group, Inc.
 Zia Engineering & Environment
 Consultants

Thank You

Not Enough Women Running for Political Office

"Ready to Run," a campaign training program that prepares women to run for elected office, was hosted by the Women's Intercultural Center in Anthony, NM, on April 12-13. Mary Carter, Executive Director, and Sara Bartlett Large, Coordinator, organized this well planned program that was developed by the Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, that originally sought to increase the number of women in elected office in New Jersey.

A reception and keynote speech by Former State Senator Mary Jane Garcia opened the event. She regaled the audience with stories about her elections, service in the NM Senate, and managing the legislative votes as Senate Majority Whip during her tenure.

Saturday was down to the business of identifying and discussing the real issues women face when choosing to run for elected office. The format of the program consisted of panel presentations and breakout sessions. Issues and strategies discussed were launching a campaign, using the media, identifying issues in the local area, fundraising, marketing yourself as a candidate, navigating political parties and preparing for public life. Currently elected women served as panel presenters and shared stories about their experience in elected office. Women were encouraged to begin their political careers with appointments to local boards and commissions if they weren't ready to plunge into campaigning for an elected office.

The Ready to Run program has grown and is now offered, through a grant process, to areas throughout the U.S. In April, the program was hosted in Albuquerque as well as in Anthony.

The Women's Intercultural Center is a place for women to learn and to work together to develop their social, spiritual, economic, and political potential.

2013 J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium - Quality of Life as a Social Justice Issue

For a second year, Quality of Life as a Social Justice Issue was the topic of the J. Paul Taylor Symposium. This year members of the NMSU College of Arts and Sciences organized the two-day event, Friday, April 5, and Saturday, April 6. Kudos to County Commissioner Billy Garrett; Miriam Chaiken, Head, Anthropology, NMSU; and Jake Rollow, Field Representative, U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich, program organizers.

A workshop about civic engagement in a diverse community opened the symposium. The following day, panelists discussed issues that affect the quality of life for residents of our county that has a poverty level of 50 percent. Health care, economic development, food security, education and literacy were topics of discussion.

The final day was a bilingual event around the issue of public transportation. Individuals from the communities of Sunland Park, Chaparral, Vado, Berino, Anthony, Radium Springs, Butterfield, and Alamogordo, who participated in the first year of the symposium, returned. Together with experts in local, available transportation and using maps provided by NMSU, participants developed transportation routes for their communities. The recommended routes were presented to the audience. Before leaving, the participants had committed to a date to hold a community transportation meeting. Shy to speak at first, by the end of the meeting the participants were fully engaged.

Where do we go from here? Quality of Life events have been funded by the Kellogg Foundation for the past two years. The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico is the agency for fund management and is in the process of organizing the Ocotillo Institute for Social Justice to carry on this work.

“Escape Fire: The Fight to Rescue American Health Care - Roberta Gran, Film Reviewer

Memorial Medical Center Complex sponsored a public viewing of this film, premiered at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival documentary, on April 5. The film brings to light the aberrant, destructive, and contrary nature of American healthcare.

Issues with which we are familiar were raised again: disease management vs. preventive care; big business vs. decisions based on humanitarian needs; expenses related to unnecessary procedures; bankruptcy caused by long illness; and influence of medical and pharmaceutical lobbies.

The implementation of the Affordable Care Act focuses attention on the lack of primary care doctors and other primary professionals and the need for people to take responsibility for their health by making better lifestyle choices.

The health care industry needs to move from a disease model to a preventive health care model. The system needs to be incentivized to encourage people to choose careers in primary care.

Border Patrol *(Continued from page 3)*

usually reduced to a misdemeanor, but an attempted reentry may be treated as a more serious felony that involves some prison time.

Finally, not all Border Patrol apprehensions involve undocumented immigrants. Drug smuggling into the United States and gun smuggling from the country are interdicted. Transporting of women and runaways to Mexico and within the United States for prostitution is stopped. Checkpoints have license plate readers that can identify stolen cars almost instantly. The Border Patrol acts to stop illegal immigration, reduce the likelihood of a terrorist attack, and make life generally safer for all of us.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Saturday, April 20, members met to adopt a budget and a program for study and action and elect a slate of officers.

To remind members of the importance of its nonpartisanship, the nonpartisan policy was reviewed and readopted.

The Bylaw’s Committee reported that the bylaws were reviewed, compared with state and national bylaws and were readopted without change. A direction to the Board suggested that the notification time that members receive about annual meeting should be shortened. This will be considered by the 2014 Bylaws Committee.

An operating budget of \$8,112 for 2013-2014 was adopted. An education fund budget of \$4,482 was adopted. The 2013 Las Cruces City Election is the primary projected expense during the next fiscal year.

Under Program for Study and Action, all current positions were readopted. The Board’s recommended new study, *The Pursuit of Happiness in Las Cruces* that focuses on quality of life issues was adopted by members as a one-year study. Members agreed that the Non-Recommended Study of the Children’s Crises Center should not be adopted.

The newly elected Board of Directors includes: Erika Graf-Webster, President; Roberta Gran, Vice President; Christina Little, Secretary; Ruth Benjamins, Treasurer; and Johnnie Aldrich, Director, Membership.

Gwen Hanson and Gracia Class, Co-Directors, Voter Services, will continue serving on the Board.

Special recognition was extended to Bonnie Burn, as president, who left the Board after serving for four years, and Dale Yeo, Editor, *Voters Guide*, for her work during the 2012 General Election.



League News



League of Women Voters of New Mexico

2013 State Convention

May 18-19, 2013 - Hilton Garden Inn, 2550 Don Roser Dr. , Las Cruces

Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

Schedule

Friday, May 17 - RECEPTION

Home of Carol Jackson, 4451 Superstition Dr., Las Cruces,
Tel: (575) 522-5402

Saturday, May 18, 2013

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Registration and Silent Auction Begins

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. LUNCH

Speaker: **Jake Rollow**, Field Representative, Las Cruces Office,
U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich
Topic: U.S. Immigration Reform

2:00 - 5:30 p.m. First Plenary Session

6:30 p.m. BANQUET

Lorenzo's, Saratoga Room, 1753 E. University Ave.
Speaker: **Garrey Carruthers**, Ph.D., Dean, College of Business, New Mexico
State University and Former Governor of New Mexico
Topic: NM Economy and Early College High School

Sunday, May 19, 2013

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. Second Plenary Session

9:00 a.m. Silent Auction Ends

1:00 p.m. Convention Adjourns

Silent Auction is a fund raiser. Members are asked to bring an item to donate to the auction and to bring some extra cash to buy something. Items should be brought to the luncheon on Saturday. Final bids will be made on Sunday. Any item not bid upon must be taken home with you.

Thank you!

First Meeting of Newly Elected Board Follows

League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

Education Committee Focuses on NM Legislation - *Roberta Gran, Reporting*

Even with little time to put together a local League Action Committee after having attended a Lobbying Workshop, we were quite successful at connecting with the League of Women Voters of New Mexico (LWVNM) to lobby for bills before the legislature that were in line with our education position.

The committee rallied very quickly and put a great deal of effort into learning about the active bills, creating a relationship with the LWVNM Action Committee, devising a network for a local League Calling Tree of our more active members, and making sure that calls were initiated to the Calling Tree "branches." We provided our branches with contact information for all of the appropriate legislators. Two of our members, Erika Graf-Webster and Roberta Gran, traveled to League Day at the Legislature where they presented packets of Fact Sheets prepared by LWVNM to our legislators and included our local League education position with a cover letter. They were able to meet with a few of them in their offices.

Following the close of the session, members of the Education Committee met and discussed refinements to our telephone tree protocol. To ensure accurate information and type of action to be taken, members will receive "Call to Action" email messages instead of personal phone calls. Members of the tree will have to be more vigilant about checking their emails often during legislative sessions. Dick Mason (LWVNM) and Barbara Goedecke were identified as contacts to initiate legislative action. Members of the local Action Committee will participate in the LWVNM Action Committee weekly teleconferences.

Applause and thank you for a good job!

Letter to the Editor Eleanor Roosevelt, My Hero!

Wonderful article on Eleanor Roosevelt League member! (*The VOTER*, March 2013) My mother, Ruth Lampland, also a League member, knew Eleanor and interviewed her and other notables for her popular book, *Hobbies for Everybody*. The purpose of the book, written in 1934 during the Great Depression, was to encourage people who were depressed and out of work to maximize their interests and develop their hobby skills so that they could find creative ways to support themselves.

Eleanor's book, *You Learn by Living*, (written when she was 76) is full of similar common sense advice for leading a fulfilling life. Her "keys" include some of the inspiring principles important to us as League members, including "the Right to Be an Individual," "Facing Responsibility," "How Everyone Can Take Part in Politics," and "Learning to Be a Public Servant."

When we were working on our History Project, LWV of Santa Fe County, I got very caught up with Eleanor, who was great friends with a group of Bryn Mawr women who had settled in Santa Fe. Most notable were the White sisters who donated a large parcel of land that became the site of the National Park Service Building, Museum Hill, and the School of Advanced Research in Santa Fe. Did Eleanor have any influence in the decision to locate the Southwest Regional Center of the National Park Service on that piece of land? This national historic treasure was built between 1937-39 by the Civilian Conservation Corps and is full of special carvings, tinwork, and other features done by artists and local craftsmen who were supported through this public works program. Eleanor's Santa Fe friends also included Ina Sizer Cassidy, who had founded the New Mexico League in 1920 right after women got the right to vote, and Alice Corbin, a major figure in the Santa Fe artist colony. Many educated and interesting people from all over the country came to Santa Fe for treatment of tuberculosis and fell in love with it.

Meredith Machen, Vice President
League of Women Voters New Mexico

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 School Board Meeting,

March 19, 2013, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.,
Barbara Goedecke, Observer

Report on Funding, HB2: On the plus side, the average 1% increase in key public school employee salaries will stay the same as will the recurring expenses for the district. Funding for the K-3 Plus Program for disadvantaged students will increase. An \$11 million request is to be received if the governor signs the bill. This funding will increase student enrollment from 900 to 1,680. There will be a summer school program with focus on reading. Teachers will receive full pay for the 25 days added to the school calendar.

On the minus side there are two issues:

1. SB587 that would allow a study of the current A-F grading system of schools is likely to be vetoed by the governor.
2. There is a Maintenance of Effort requirement for governments to fund their school systems at the same level as the previous fiscal year for special education services. The stimulus funding that supplanted the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), must now be paid back.

The 2013-14 School Calendar identified school start date as August 14 and time as 8:40 a.m. Issues related to high school and middle school class time schedules were reviewed. Two final issues were raised: (1) distributing report cards and (2) scheduling graduation not to conflict with softball and track finals.

Routine reports were presented and covered within a 40-minute time periods.

LCPS Board meetings are video taped live and rebroadcast on the LCPS website. They are broadcast live on Comcast Ch. 20

Las Cruces School Board Meeting,

April 16, 2013, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.,
Barbara Goedecke, Observer

All board members were present. The meeting was somewhat shortened because much of the material was discussed in a closed session that was held from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Superintendent Rounds explained that although HB21 states that closed meetings are illegal, exceptions can be allowed by the Attorney General given sufficient reason.

President Phillips reported that the closed meeting was held to discuss collective bargaining issues. However, a reading of the meeting packet items distributed to board members indicated several proposals for use of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds for which the District has applied.

During open meeting, Maria Flores, School Board member reported on the Ready for Kinder Project. This six-week pilot program emphasized the role of parents as principal teachers of their children from birth to five years of age. The parents were given lessons about how children learn and develop and the skill sets that children are expected to have when they start kindergarten. Three elementary schools, Conlee, Jornada, and Alameda, participated. Over 100 children participated from 76 families. The program was conducted on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings, and children could go to any of the participating schools.

The expansion plans for Court Youth Charter Center Concept were reviewed: Alma d'Arte, is already there. La Academia Dolores Huerta Middle School, grades 6-8, and the J. Paul Taylor Academy, K-8, would be part of the new Youth Center. Mesilla Valley Foundation also will have space.

LEAGUE OBSERVER REPORTS (Continued)**South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA) - Johnnie Aldrich, Observer****Landfill Expansion & Solid Waste Collection and Processing**, Community Public Meeting, April 16, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., County Government Building

One part of our League position statement on Solid Waste Recycling urges city and county governments to “encourage public education” to inform citizens “about all aspects of the program.”

This Tuesday evening event was public education at its most efficient and most effective. I expected a two-hour PowerPoint presentation by contracted experts followed by questions from the public. Although the format of the room was set up to accommodate small groups (3-10) of interested citizens gathered around various presentation focal points, the size of the crowd, about 30 people, allowed for almost one-on-one explanations, in well illustrated detail. Two major proposals will be presented to the City Council and the County Commission: (1) expansion and update of the Corralitos Landfill Facility and (2) reorganization of solid waste collection and processing.

Also included in the illustrated presentation circle were a continuation of the Campaign Against Illegal Dumping and a copy of the Draft Proposal of a revised Doña Ana County Flow Control Ordinance. (“Flow Control” in this context refers to the collection and proper disposal of trash and recyclables from private residences and commercial entities.)

Briefly, the proposed changes to solid waste collection involve building “real” transfer stations in Hatch, Radium Springs, Anthony, and Chaparral to replace the wire-enclosed areas now used for collection and storage before being transported to the Las Cruces Transfer Station or to the Friedman Recycling Facility in El Paso. Transfer stations in these smaller population centers would result in huge savings in equipment

maintenance and transportation costs. These proposed changes will take 10 years to implement at a cost approaching \$11 million.

At the Corralitos Landfill, the Authority’s recommended changes that include upgrading so that asbestos can be safely stored, extending the life span of the fill, giving more attention to environmental issues, and reducing cost to taxpayers. These changes will not be forthcoming until after permission is obtained from NM state authorities in August, 2015.

SCSWA Board Meeting, April 18, 2013, 9:00 - 10:05 a.m., Transfer Station Conference Room

The Board meeting was shorter than usual. The focus of work this week was the scheduled community public meetings in Hatch, Radium Springs, and Las Cruces. The Anthony meeting was to be held on the evening of this Board Meeting. LWVGLC member, Casey Ancker, and I have listened to preparatory presentations and plans for these public education events for the past few months.

Patrick Peck, Director reported that

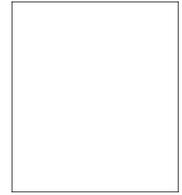
- as usual in the spring months, collections are up. Over 500 tons of trash were collected each weekday in April.
- March was the “bottom,” the end of monthly financial loss for this regional entity.
- attendance was much lower than expected at the various community meetings, but the response of attendees to the effort was highly positive.

During the “public input” portion of the meeting, I expressed the League’s gratitude for the effort expended on the community educational events and the efficiency with which much information was effectively presented and questions heard and answered.



League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces
 P.O. Box 8322
 Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322

(575) 524-VOTE (8683)



FIRST CLASS



May 2013
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Membership Application

Membership: Individual (\$60), 2nd Household Member (\$30), and Students (\$25)
New Members joining after November 1 pay half-dues.

Name: _____

2nd Household: _____

Address: _____ **City/State/Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____ **Email:** _____

\$ _____ Contribution to the League Make Check payable to LWV of Greater Las Cruces

\$ _____ Contribution to the Education Fund (Tax Deductible) Make check payable to
 League of Women Voters Education Fund

All checks should be mailed to

League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces, P.O. Box 8322, Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces, 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.