

The VOTER

League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
Web Site: www.lwvglc.org
October 2012



AFTERNOON SOCIAL

Monday, October 8, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
Sunset Grill, Somona Ranch Golf Club
1274 Golf Club Drive
Cost: \$10

Pressing Forward in Early Childhood Education
Luis V. Reyes, Ph.D., New Mexico State
University

October 1 (Monday) - RSVP Deadline
Contact: Roberta Gran, Tel: 373-8490,
Email: robertagran@q.com

Directions: Take Lohman east toward Organ Mountains. Left turn at Roadrunner. Right turn at Golf Course Dr. (traffic light). Right turn into Golf Course Club House. Sunset Grill is on the right side of the Club House.

Pressing Forward in Early Childhood Education

Luis V. Reyes, Ph.D., Associate Dean,
Graduate School, New Mexico State University

For its focus this year, the League's Education Committee has selected two priority issues: (1) early childhood education and (2) involving parents in their students' education. Both are important issues revealed by our two-year study.

We are pleased to have Dr. Reyes as our guest speaker for our October 8 **AFTERNOON** meeting. He will be speaking about early childhood education by providing professional terminology that places the issue in context for us. The historical perspective and current issues, both nationally and in New Mexico, of this relatively new component of education will demonstrate the relevance early

(Continued on page 2)

Calendar


October 2 (Tuesday) - 6-7:30 p.m., Candidates Forum for NM State Senate, Las Cruces Council Chamber, 700 S. Main St.

October 4 (Thursday) - 2-4 p.m., Board Meeting, Las Cruces City Hall, Room 2007C.

**October 8 - AFTERNOON SOCIAL
REPLACES LUNCH WITH A LEADER THIS MONTH**

October 10 (Wednesday) - 6-7:30 p.m., Candidates Forum for NM State House, Las Cruces Council Chamber, 700 S. Main St.

October 17 (Wednesday) - 6:00-8:00 p.m., Candidates Forum for 3rd Judicial District Court Judges, District Attorney, and County Clerk, Treasurer, and Commissioners, Las Cruces Council Chamber, 700 S. Main St.

 **Notable Events:** October is United Nations month and October 24 is its 67th Anniversary
October 31 - Halloween

VOTER SERVICES CALENDAR (p. 7)



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
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
Web Site: www.lwvglc.org

President - Bonnie Burn

Vice President & Program
Erika Graf-Webster

Secretary - Martha Duran

Treasurer - Ruth Benjamins

Director, Membership
Roberta Gran

Co-Director, Voter Services
Gracia Class
Gwen Hanson

Nominating Committee
Chair: Nancy Phillips
Elected Member: Judith Scott

STUDY GROUPS

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

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

Impediments to Voting in Doña Ana County

Johnnie Aldrich - 522-1544
Roberta Gran - 650-8490

Mental Illness Services in Doña Ana County

Becky Beckett - 522-8171
Mickey Curtis - 532-5655

Metropolitan Court
Marjorie Burr - 522-2528

ACTION COMMITTEE
Vicki Simons - 522-4813

Web Master - Dale Yeo

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

Look Back – New Mexico Public Lands - Bonnie Burn Reporting

League members had the privilege of listening to Ray Powell, State Land Commissioner, and learning about New Mexico Public Lands at its Lunch with a Leader meeting on September 10.

Using a beautifully colored PowerPoint handout, Our Land, Our Legacy, Commissioner Powell introduced the NM Land Trust. New Mexico's 77,666,400 total acres of land is divided into private (43.9%), federal (34.1%), State Trust (11.6%), Native American (10.2%), and other (0.2%). The State Trust land is scattered all over the state and is tied to particular beneficiaries such as hospitals, universities, NM Military Institute, NM Penitentiary, Capitol Buildings, and special schools and hospitals. Revenue is derived from non-renewable sources such as oil, gas, and minerals that are distributed to the Land Grant permanent fund, and renewable revenue sources, derived from grazing, wind/solar power, rights of way, and commercial development that go directly to the beneficiaries. It behooves a beneficiary to be attached to a good revenue producing source to gain the most money from the Land Trust.

Public schools receive about 84% of the revenue. This allocation saves the taxpayers about \$500 million/year and the average family about \$800/year.

Through the Community Partnership Program, the Commissioner is working with Espanola, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Edgewood, Clovis, Hobbs, Silver City, Las Cruces and Sunland Park. Commissioner Powell described land-leased opportunities to build affordable housing, science and technology parks, and recreational parks, and entertainment areas. Mesa del Sol in Albuquerque, Tierra Madre in Sunland Park, and Edgewood Middle School are examples of projects undertaken by the State Land Office. A joint powers agreement (JPA) was signed by Mayor Miyagishima and Commissioner Powell on July 12, 2012, for land on the East Mesa. There are 13 Regional Field Managers to help manage 9 million acres of surface estate and 13 million acres of subsurface oil, gas, and minerals. "When we take care of our land, our land takes care of us."

Early Childhood Education *(Continued from page 1)*

childhood education has in our public educational system.

Dr. Reyes is an Associate Dean, NMSU and has a long association with the College of Education, New Mexico State University. His areas of specialization are early care and education. He received his Ph.D. from New Mexico State University and a Post-Doctorate in Learning Technologies. He is a recognized national expert in early childhood education.

Please Join us for our first ever Afternoon Social

Added Note: For those who wish to stay, the film, "American Teacher," narrated by Matt Damon will be shown upon the completion of the meeting.

President's Message

POWER THE VOTE is the slogan used by the League of Women Voters to have every eligible citizen, age 18 and over, **VOTE**. At national, state, and local levels, Leagues throughout the United States are focusing on registering voters, sponsoring candidates' forums, and publishing *Voters Guides*.



As a reminder: *"The League arose out of the fight to gain the right to vote for women. We started out to ensure that every eligible woman voter could register, get informed, and vote. And, we have continued for over 90 years to ensure the integrity of America's elections by making sure that every eligible citizen has a fair opportunity to vote. As a result, the League does not support or oppose any candidate or party. The League is fact-based because voters need facts from all sides of the issues so that they can make up their own minds."* (Elizabeth McNamara, President, LWVUS)

Powering the vote means helping voters overcome barriers of misinformation as well as actual legal barriers to voting. Since July, members of the Greater Las Cruces have been hard at work on voter education. Our voter services activities are listed in this issue on page 7. We look forward to seeing **YOU** at our three candidates forums. Redistricting has added new faces in the candidate line-up, so familiar faces may no longer be representing us. Meet the candidates in person or watch them on Comcast Cable Channel 20.

LOOK for our *Voters Guide* in the *Las Cruces Bulletin*, October 12 edition. Information about candidates, constitutional amendments and bond issues will be available in the Guide.

Our web site, www.lwvglc.org, has been updated to provide more information about voting. **CHECK out** the home page:

- 2012 General Election Calendar
 - Voting Information for Doña Ana County
- If the information you need is not here, please call the Bureau of Elections, 647-7428.

Remember that **Voting Convenience Centers** will be used for the General Election, November 6. You may stop at any of the center locations to cast your ballot; you are no longer tied to a specific precinct location.

"It is easy in this election year with its focus on floods of campaign cash to lose sight of the power of ordinary voters. It is, after all the voters who will determine the outcome of the many elections held this November." (Elizabeth McNamara, President, LWVUS)

Your Vote is Your Voice!

Bonnie Burn

Membership Directory 2012-2013

were distributed at the
Lunch with a Leader and mailed
September 10

Send corrections to
Roberta Gran
650-8490 or
robertagran@q.com

Corrections:

Voting Impediments Study
Group Co- Chairs: Johnnie
Aldrich & Roberta Gran

Telephone Number for
Charlotte Lipson . . 527-4083

Friends of the League

John Ameriks, M.D.
Anonymous
Biad Chile Ltd. Co.
Reed R. Burn
Joseph P. Camunez, D.D.S.
Donald Dresp
Edward Jones - Connie Lee
Jackie and Adrian Edwards
Nancy and Ken Hall
Win Jacobs
Lilley Law Offices
Louise P. Lockhart
Barbara Myers
Francisco Mario Ortiz Law Firm
Jean Ossorio
Kathryn Schultz
Wanda Skowlund
David Sudimack, DDS
Sunspot Solar Energy
Donna and Tom Tate
Williams Design Group, Inc.
Zia Engineering & Environment
Consultants

Thank You

Hard Choices: Adapting Policy and Management to Water Scarcity
57th Annual Water Conference - August 28, 2012, NMSU Corbett Center
 Sponsored by U.S. Senator Tom Udall and NMSU President Barbara Coutour

This event, made possible by a 1964 act of Congress that authorized conferences on water in all states, was divided into individual and panel presentations made up of researchers and experts from New Mexico and federal government agencies. The discussion revolved around familiar topics such as water supply, water users, environment, climate change, reclamation, and conservation. Best practices, conservation, and supply opportunities suggested new possibilities to ensure a water supply for the future. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Michael L. Connor gave the keynote address at lunch and was followed by Scott Verhines, NM State Engineer. Posters were on display in the corridors outside the ballroom.

Population growth and drought are creating a growing gap between water availability and use. How to maintain a sustainable water supply that meets the needs of all users, allows regional growth, and honors current treaty obligations was the theme of the conference. Concern was expressed that NM may be entering a drought period similar to that experienced in the 1950s. Users depend on surface and underground water for daily use. When there is a decrease in available surface water, users turn to ground water drawn from deep wells in the Mesilla Basin aquifer. The basin is the primary source of

residential water in our area and also is used by treaty partners in Texas and Mexico.

As the conference title suggests, hard choices are going to have to be made. The status quo and looking to the past for solutions are no longer viable options. Treaty agreements have appropriated and allocated the available water supply. Managing water better rather than taking on new projects and managing water through data were proposed. Infrastructure maintenance (i.e., underground systems, reservoirs, and dams) that are often 60 years old needs to be addressed not only to decrease leakage but also to increase longevity. Prioritization of water use and a more effective, timely process for transferring water rights may be components of future decisions. To solve current problems, look to the future rather than the past for solutions. Lines of communication need to be kept open and cooperation among users must be developed so that courts are a last resort option. Finally, good science and good data should be part of any successful sustainability effort.

The question and answer dialogue between presenters and the audience was educational and interesting.

Camino Real Regional Plan for Sustainable Development Summit
 August 18, 2012 - Court Youth Center

Doña Ana County received a \$2 million grant from the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, an association among the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

This three-year award supports regional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation and infrastructure development for the 90-mile corridor stretching from Sunland Park to Hatch.

Building on regional planning already achieved in the One Valley, One Vision 2040 plan, the Camino Real Plan will focus on seven planning initiatives:

- Engagement and Education
- Comprehensive Plan
- Colonia (Community) Master Plan
- Unified Code
- Border Economic Development Plan
- Regional Capital Needs Plan
- Corridor Management Plan

Leadership for this initiative will be provided by members of the Camino Real Consortium that includes local governments, non-profits and educational institutions.

This summit was the official public kick-off to start the community engagement initiative of the project.



League News



League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS)

Campaign Finance: League's Stand on a Constitutional Amendment (published in Leader's Update, August 30, 2012) - At the LWVUS Convention, June 2012, delegates adopted a resolution (Motion #36833) that assigned the task of advocating strongly for any and all measures, including but not limited to a constitution amendment, to the LWVUS Board. The resolution also requires that the measures that the Board supports be consistent with League positions. The Campaign Finance Task Force has thoroughly reviewed current proposals for constitutional amendments. Neither the Task Force nor the Board has found any proposals consistent with League positions on campaign finance reform and individual liberties. There are movements in the states asking various state legislatures to pass resolutions calling upon Congress to submit a constitutional amendment to the states for ratification. The LWVUS Board has not endorsed those efforts and until such time as it does, state and local Leagues should not advocate for these resolutions. If such an effort is underway in your state, please use the advocacy form on the LWVUS website to obtain guidance from the LWVUS advocacy staff in the event that your state board is uncertain as to how to proceed.

Membership on the LWVUS Campaign Finance Task Force includes: Chris Carson (CA), Pat Donath (MI and LWVUS Board), Allison Feher (WA), Theresa Schneder (MT), Jill Ward (ME), and Co-Chairs Norman Turrill (OR and LWVUS Board) and Judy Duffy (MN and LWVUS Board). The task force serves as a resource to the Board and provides information and input on campaign finance issues including short- and long-term strategies for reform. In the short term, the task force will be researching and providing information to members on the proposed constitutional amendment proposals that have been introduced in the U.S. Congress in reaction to the Supreme Court's decision on *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*.

The task force has produced a four-page paper, "Review of Constitutional Amendments Proposed in Response to *Citizens United*," that is attached, for your information, as a separate document to The VOTER

League of Women Voters of New Mexico

Public Regulation Commission (PRC) Study

On August 27, Neva Van Peski, Karen Heldmeyer, and Jody Larson traveled from Santa Fe to lead the consensus discussion on this two-year study. The attention of the public is focused on the PRC right now. During 2012, the PRC experienced internal problems that resulted in the resignation of one commissioner. During the 2012 session, legislation was proposed to effect change in the commission. Soon, voters will be deciding the outcome of three constitutional amendments on the 2012 general election ballot.

In preparation for the unit meeting, League members received a brief, comprehensive background paper and a set of consensus questions that were germane to the discussion. The consensus questions covered the separation of jurisdictions over such departments as Insurance and Utilities, qualifications and experience for the commissioners, ex parte communication, restructuring the organization for the benefit of consumers, limiting employment in related industries by former commissioners, and funding of the PRC. The question about state-level deregulation of market entry and rates for all private intrastate modes of transportation (such as taxis, limousines, buses, shuttles, towing companies and moving companies) was raised at the end of the meeting, and members determined that there was not enough information to reach consensus. All of the GLC comments will be included with those received from members of the three other NM local Leagues to formulate consensus statements. The committee will develop a proposed position statement for approval by LWVNM Board members at its next meeting on September 22.

(Continued on page 6)

League News *(Continued from page 5)***League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces****Affordable Housing Committee Report -***Vicki Simons and Christina Little, Co-Chairs*

The LWV/GLC Affordable Housing Committee met with Tom Hassell, Executive Director, New Mexico Housing Corporation, a non-profit organization that builds affordable housing units in Doña Ana County in partnership with other organizations. Mr. Hassell was the Executive Director of the Housing Authority until earlier this year. He discussed with us the Qualification Allocation Plan (QAP) that is used by the Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA) to determine the criteria on which Tax Credit proposals are judged. Tax credits are used by organizations like Mr. Hassell's in conjunction with developers in the area to build many of the affordable housing projects; the New Mexico Housing Corporation has applied for several tax credit projects without success. No tax credits for new affordable housing projects have been awarded in Doña Ana County since 2005. Organizations in the area have received tax credits for rehabilitation.

During September, the MFA will be seeking comments on this process. Mr. Hassell outlined the items used by the MFA Board in selecting projects and suggested changes in the QAP that would make applications for project awards more likely to be successful for Southern New Mexico.

Subsequently, the committee met and discussed our options in support of more affordable housing in the area. The development of the League's position on Affordable Housing approved in early 2012 has made it possible for us to be advocates in situations like this one. The committee decided to write the following letter to the Board of MFA asking for more serious consideration in this process for Doña Ana County. The committee will be actively lobbying the city council and county commission in the near future, as well as planning other consciousness-raising activities to emphasize the pressing need for more affordable housing.

September 13, 2012

NM Mortgage Finance Authority
Attn: Mr. Dan Foster
344 4th Street SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Mr. Foster:

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces (LWVGLC) completed a two-year study of the status and needs for affordable housing in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County. In January 2012, the membership reached the following position:

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces supports current and future efforts to increase the availability of safe, decent, and affordable housing for moderate and low income households through the following actions:

- *Increase housing options for households in Doña Ana County, including but not limited to seniors, the disabled; and first-time homebuyers.*
- *Promote a variety of housing styles and types for rent and for purchase that are integrated within the community.*
- *Support strategies including public and private partnerships and grants, development agreements, fee waivers, density bonuses, and an affordable housing trust fund and land bank.*
- *Support policies that link transportation, land use, and affordable housing.*

As part of our study, we learned a great deal about the critical role that the Federal Low Income Tax Credit Program plays in the development of affordable housing. **Without exception, the use of these credits (leveraged with other funds) appears to be the single greatest generator of affordable housing units in Doña Ana County.**

As advocates for affordable housing, LWVGLC has been following the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) that establishes the criteria for judging tax credit applications.

We are concerned that **Las Cruces has not received any New Construction Tax Credits since 2005.** The 2011-2015 City of Las Cruces Consolidated Plan shows that there is a shortage of

(Continued on page 7)

League News *(Continued from page 6)***Voter Services Report***Prepared by Gwen Hanson, Co-Director*

Voter Registration: The first effort in our list of voter services for the 2012 General Election has resulted in almost 100 voter registrations, either new applications or updated voter information. The League has held registration drives in high schools, retirement centers, Walmart (Lohman), and Pro's Ranch Market. Registration events will be scheduled until October 9, when registration ends for this general election.

Voters Guide - ENGLISH AND SPANISH: Dale Yeo, editor, and Lucy Jimenez, certified translator of Spanish, have been working hard to prepare materials for publication of the *Guide* in English and Spanish. Delays in production occurred for numerous reasons, but everyone met the September 17 deadline for submitting the issue to the *Las Cruces Bulletin*. The *Voters Guide* is expected to be published in the October 12 edition of the *Bulletin*.

Candidate Forums: Letters of invitation to candidates were mailed and RSVP's received. There are many opportunities to volunteer to work at the forums. We appreciate member support with this very important project. Contact: Gwen Hanson, 556-9251 or email: gwenhandson10@gmail.com.

VOTER SERVICES SCHEDULE**VOTER REGISTRATION** - Ends on October 9**CANDIDATES FORUMS**

Las Cruces City Council Chambers
700 S. Main and Comcast Cable Ch 20

October 2, 6-7:30 p.m.- NM State Senate**October 10, 6-7:30 p.m.**- NM State House

October 17, 6-8 p.m.- 3rd Judicial District Court
 Judges, District Attorney, County Commissioners,
 County Clerk and County Treasurer

VOTERS GUIDE - ENGLISH and SPANISH

Las Cruces Bulletin, October 12, 2012

EARLY VOTING**October 9, Government Center****October 20 - Alternate Voting Sites****Absentee ballots** and other voter information**Bureau of Elections - 647-7428**

845 N. Motel Blvd.

Letter to NM Mortgage Finance Authority *(Continued from page 6)*

approximately 4,700 units for renters earning less than \$20,000 per year. Consideration should be given to Las Cruces, as a border city, that serves a greater number of residents who also earn less than the median income.

We ask that the MFA criteria be re-evaluated to make certain that there is equity among all regions of the state and that tax credits are utilized to create the maximum number of new housing units. The number of units needed, the cost per unit, the fraction of the population in low and median income groups, and the time gap between awards should be used to create fairness in the distribution of tax credits.

We expect that the QAP evaluation process will be transparent and conducted in a professional and objective manner.

/s/ *Christina S. Little**Victoria Simons*

Christina S Little and Victoria Simons, Co-Chairs of LWVGLC Affordable Housing Committee

Editor's Note: The two articles that follow give information about two new programs, Invitational Education and the School Turnaround Specialist Program, mentioned in the LCPS Observer Report, p.7.

Invitational Education Becomes a Part of LCPS by Jo Galvan Nash, Director of Communications & Policy Development, Las Cruces Public Schools

In order to enhance the overall educational environment and, in turn, improve the education of all students, Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) has embraced a new philosophy of Invitational Education (IE).

Through Invitational Education, each school employee will consider how the schools and school personnel are presenting themselves to the community, to parents, to students and to each other. Invitational Education is a systematic way to transform school environments with purpose and direction through practical strategies that focus on people, places, policies, procedures and programs. The five Ps, as they are known, provide a framework to collaboratively address, evaluate, sustain and improve student achievement and the educational experience.

In July 2012, Superintendent Stan Rounds began the school year by inviting all school principals to discuss how their schools could become more engaging for parents and students and how they could create a more positive school culture. He encouraged his administrative team members to step out of their immediate environment and re-imagine what their school environments could become. This was an opportunity for principals to change the system; not **reform** their schools but rather, **transform** them.

To put this idea into local context, the Superintendent continues to ask school staff, "Are our schools inviting and are they welcoming places to learn, work and visit? Do students feel engaged in their class work? Are school buildings and grounds neat, organized and clean? Do our school programs and policies promote student success?" The answers to these and other questions will help LCPS better determine whether the educational environment is supportive of the district's mission of providing a student-centered learning environment that cultivates character, fosters academic excellence and embraces diversity. Additionally, answers to these questions will help pinpoint unnecessary hurdles that can be removed if they inhibit progress from continuing.

One of LCPS most positive and visible changes due to this new philosophy is at Valley View Elementary School, located in the older section of Las Cruces. A polished portico greets visitors; new windows have replaced the old ones; fresh paint has made the school lobby look crisp and organized; items that once cluttered the entrance have been removed making the school a friendly place to visit. And, this is only one of dozens of examples of what has already taken place throughout the district since the school year began.

The Superintendent has vowed that Invitational Education will continue to be the theme. It goes without saying that every person — teachers and school staff, parents, business leaders, clergy, students, parents and all members of our community — is an emissary for education. Therefore, through each stakeholder, it is the hope that Invitational Education will spread and eventually become engrained in the daily practices and expectations of our local educational system.

School Turnaround Specialist Program - Summary by Bonnie Burn

A program has been developed at the University of Virginia (UVA) that utilizes a systemic approach to change by working with schools, districts, and, in some cases, state-level leadership teams to help build the internal capacity necessary to support and sustain effective school turnarounds. The two-year turnaround program focuses on two critical components :

1. High impact school leaders
2. District capacity and conditions necessary to initiate, support, and enhance transformational change.

Drawing upon innovative thinking in business and education, the program addresses the challenges and needs of education leaders charged with turning around our nation's lowest performing schools. Educators identify key issues and develop strategies based on their own needs.

The LCPS has been selected as one of three districts in NM to participate in this program. Gallup-McKinley and Los Lunas are the other two. The

(Continued on page 9)

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, August 21, 2012, 6:30 - 8:15p.m. – Nancy Phillips, Observer

All Board members and administrators were present.

A teacher from Hermosa Heights Elementary School publicly thanked Superintendent Rounds for his welcome speech to staff at the beginning of the year, emphasizing "Invitational Education." She and her colleagues are enthusiastically supportive of this concept which seeks to integrate people, places, policies and programs in order to provide an inviting atmosphere for all students and families.

The Board approved all items on the Consent Agenda, including budgetary matters for School Year 2012-13, salary schedules for certified and classified employees, and revisions to several resolutions and policies from 2007.

Ann Snavelly, RN, was recognized for receiving an award for "School Nurse of the Year in New Mexico." She has served as a school nurse in the district for over 20 years.

Superintendent Rounds reported about his attendance this summer at The University of Virginia School Turnaround Specialist program. The focus of the program was:

- Building district capacity to initiate and support transformational change;
- Training high-impact school leaders'
- Understanding the school turnaround context and the fundamentals of successful turnaround;
- Developing and communicating a vision that includes the need urgent for change; and
- Establishing a culture of high expectations.

This two-year program has been successful in Virginia and other districts. Mr. Rounds will participate in future workshops. The District will implement 30-day and 90-day plans and intends to make needed changes immediately. Meanwhile, all principals will report on their progress with the

program to the Board at its monthly meeting. Funding for this program is provided by a grant.

All summer construction projects were completed on time and current projects are mostly taking place after school hours with minimal disruption of class time. Board member Maria Flores reported that both schools she visited on the first day of school were operating smoothly with no glitches.

Turnaround Program *(Continued from page 8)*

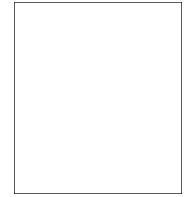
participant members from LCPS include: Superintendent Stan Rounds; Associate Superintendent for Learning, Teaching, and Research; Dr. Steven Sanchez; Andrea Fletcher, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; and Arsenio Romera, Joint Ungraded Multi-age Primary (JUMP) Principal. Principals from the following schools: Janet Candelaria, Conlee; Rose Apodaca, Doña Ana Elementary; Sharon Robinson, Valley View; and Gabe Jacques, Mesa Middle School, also are included. The goal of the program is to develop not only individual school principals but also district leadership so that each school has a strong support network that provides the resources, tools, and accountability needed for sustainable success. Both school and district leaders participate in this together.

UVA staff in the Partnership for Leaders in Education (PLE) program work closely with the participating school districts to ensure that the program succeeds. The district's infrastructure, strengths, and areas of improvement are assessed. Uniquely qualified school leaders are identified to lead the effort. A turnaround plan is developed and implemented. Two-day retreats will be held in 2013 and 2014 that will include three-member school leadership teams per principal who will continue to build on this leadership model. PLEs will visit each LCPS school to assess progress and determine next steps. Each spring, a local one-day strategic retreat will be held with the district leaders and the PLE team.



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FIRST CLASS



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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.