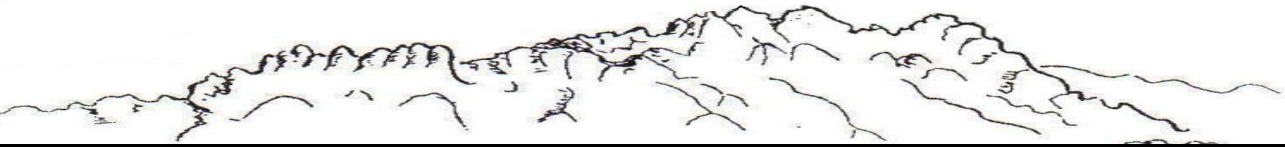


# The VOTER

League of Women Voters  
of Greater Las Cruces  
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)  
Web Site: [www.lwvglc.org](http://www.lwvglc.org)  
October 2014



## Election: Past, Present & Future



**Scott Krahling, Supervisor, Bureau of Elections, Doña Ana County**

**Monday, October 6, 2014, 5:30 p.m.**

**Sunset Grill, Sonoma Ranch Golf Course, 1274 Golf Club Road**

Over the past ten years many positive changes have occurred in New Mexico elections. These changes have increased access to voting, encouraged more youth participation, and increased administrative accountability. The Doña Ana County Clerk's Office has been a leader in modernizing elections by implementing new ideas such as Voting Convenience Centers and allowing minors to work at the polls. As elections continue to evolve, the Doña Ana County Clerk's Office, in its leadership position, seeks out new proposals and ideas that will help the state and counties better serve the public.

As the 2014 General Election approaches, information about the questions on the ballot will be presented and the use of modernized voting equipment will be explained. The Bureau's voter outreach campaign and ideas for helping to educate the public about the election process will be discussed. In addition,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *CALENDAR - United Nations Month*

**September 29 (Monday) - Deadline for making reservations for Afternoon Event**

RSVP: Roberta Gran, Email: [robertagran@q.com](mailto:robertagran@q.com), Tel: 373-8490

**October 2 (Thursday) - 1:30-3:30 p.m., Board Meeting, City Hall Conference Room 2007A. All are welcome!**

**October 6 (Monday) - 5:30 p.m. Afternoon Event: Elections: Past, Present & Future, Scott Krahling, Doña Ana County Government.** Sunset Grill, Sonoma Ranch Golf Course, 1274 Golf Club Dr. \$10. Reservations Required: Roberta Gran, Email: [robertagran@q.com](mailto:robertagran@q.com), Tel: 373-8490. If reservations are not cancelled, you will be charged.

*(No Lunch with a Leader or Pre-Lunch Meeting this month.)*

**October 7 (Tuesday) & October 14 (Tuesday) - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Candidates Forums, See p. 6-7 for details.**

**October 16 (Thursday) - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Third Thursday Book Club, Capital in the Twenty-First Century by Thomas Picketty.** At the home of Ardyth Norem. 522-0780, [ardythnorem@icloud.com](mailto:ardythnorem@icloud.com)

**October 20 (Monday) - 10:00 a.m., Concurrence Unit Meeting: LWVNM Natural Resources Position,** Good Samaritan Social Center, Conference Room (downstairs near Main Auditorium).

**Notable Dates: October 13 - Columbus Day. October 24 - United Nations Day. October 31 - Halloween.**

**The VOTER**

Volume 46, Issue 5 - October 2014  
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** - Erika Graf-Webster

**Vice President & Program for Study and Action**  
Gwen Hanson

**Secretary** - Sadie Valverde

**Treasurer** - Ruth Benjamins

**Director, Membership**  
Johnnie Aldrich

**Co-Directors, Voter Services**  
Marcia Anderson & Dale Yeo

**Director Events and Speakers**  
Roberta Gran

**Nominating Committee**  
Chair: Ardyth Norem  
Elected Member: Sue Cain

**Program for Study & Action**

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

**Education**  
Ruth Benjamins - 527-0204  
Bonnie Burn - 526-0013

**Election Procedures**  
Erika Graf-Webster

**Health Care**  
Vicki Simons - 522-4813

**Mental Health Services**  
(Vacant)

**Quality of Life (Happiness)**  
Cynthia Pelak - (575) 496-3170

**Voting Impediments**  
Roberta Gran - 373-8490

**Water Issues**  
Win Jacobs - 521-9331

**ACTION COMMITTEE**  
Barbara Goedecke - 522-0323

**Web Master**  
Dale Yeo - 405-7580

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

**Elections: Past, Present, & Future** *(Continued from page 1)*

possible legislative priorities for the next sixty-day NM legislative session will be shared.

**Scott A. Krahling** – Since joining the County Clerk's Office as Supervisor, Bureau of Elections, Scott has revised the Bureau's Mission Statement and Guiding Principles, increased community outreach to educate the public about important voting and election deadlines, and emphasized the role of the Clerk's Office in protecting democracy. Before joining the Bureau of Elections, Scott was a Doña Ana County Commissioner from January 2009 to December 2012. He played an instrumental role in redistricting the county commissioners' boundaries to reflect the 2010 U.S. Census results and revising the county's infrastructure plans for the east mesa.

*We invite you to join us for this afternoon event  
and presentation*

**Board Highlights** – September 4, 2014, 1:30-3:30 p.m., City Hall, Conference room 2007A

The September Board meeting focused on our Voter Services Activities. Marcia Anderson reported on the specifics for the Candidates forums (see p. 6, and ad, p. 8). Dale Yeo is preparing the Voters Guide (see p. 6 for details). The League will register voters at the Election Fest sponsored by the Bureau of Elections and supported by the League on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> at Young Park, from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Education Committee activities include a collaboration among the League, Las Cruces Public Schools and KRWG to present a series of 30-minute programs about issues in public education. On November 17, the Committee will present a Unit Meeting to update members about for-profit virtual charter schools and STEM education. At that time, the current education position will be reviewed to determine if it needs updating.

The Board approved the final report of the Voting Impediment Study. Committee members will have a unit meeting later in the year to determine how to include its findings in our local positions. Erika Graf-Webster described the conclusions of the report that indicate voter education efforts focused on the Hispanic community were greatly needed.

The Board also verified the date of December 6 for the Legislative Breakfast and selected April 17 as the date for the 2015 Annual

### Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 - October 15

This event began on September 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on September 16, and Chile on September 18.

## President's Message



Septembers always exhaust me. Folks come back from summer full of energy and enthusiasm, and it seems as if they all want to meet as soon as possible about all kinds of things.

First and foremost our League's attention is now focused full force on our Voter Services activities – lots of work, lots of meetings. Candidate Forums are planned and executed, the candidates have been sent questions for the *Voters Guide*, and all have sent us their responses. The *Voters Guide* will be ready for publication on October 5.

Regarding the Candidate Forums, one was held on September 9 and two more are planned for October. We are proud to announce that for the first time ever we are offering simultaneous Spanish translations for the attendees. This came about through meetings with CAFé and the Ocotillo Institute's Empowerment Congress who urged the League to reach out more to the Hispanic community that actually makes up 67% of Doña Ana County's population. Our county manager, Julia Brown (see p. 4 for her presentation at the latest Lunch with a Leader), kindly offered to lend us the equipment, and CAFé arranged for the translator. What a great collaboration among the League and other local organizations!

Other events that occurred in September were the Domenici Public Policy Conference on September 17 and 18, and the "Election Fest" on September 20 (see next paragraph). The Domenici Conference (see p. 5) was a great opportunity for us to hear about national policy from political figures such as Leon Panetta, Charlie Black and Donna Brazil. In addition, Mary Wilson, former national League president, and both candidates for New Mexico Governor attended and spoke.

I stopped by the Election Fest for a couple of hours. It really was a festival! One of the local radio stations was broadcasting live and music was everywhere. There were live dancers doing both country and salsa dances, mostly performed by children (the little girls were truly adorable with their big swirling skirts). And yes, there were free hot dogs and games for the kids. There were quite a few booths, including a BIG booth for the Elections Bureau. The Democratic and Republican parties both had good-sized booths, and large signs. The Ocotillo Institute for Social Justice had a booth. Everybody except product vendors had voter registration materials at their booths, so the goal of registering voters was met. There were quite a few people and children (probably around 300) in attendance, and they truly seemed to be having a great time.

More Voter Services activities (see p. 6) are scheduled for October. **REMEMBER** to come to the Candidate Forums on October 7 and 14!

*Erika*



### Add to Membership Directory

Walker-Riggs, Judith  
 3045 Buena Vida Circle (#303)  
 Las Cruces, 88011  
 Tel: (575) 312-3526  
 Email: revjwrnm@yahoo.com

### THOMAS BRANIGAN LIBRARY

Announced the appointment of

*Renee Payne*

as Library Administrator

Ms. Payne served as library supervisor and then as acting administrator since April 2014. Her appointment was effective as of July 27, 2014.

### League Friends

- John Ameriks
- Anonymous
- Sharon Burbano
- Bob Burn
- Joseph Camunez, DDS
- Ken & Nancy Hall
- Pat Kratz
- Louise Lockhart
- Barbara Myers
- Clifford Pelton
- Nancy Phillips
- Betty Pool
- Sunspot Solar Energy
- Donna Tate

*Thank you*

**Look Back: Forward for FY 2015**  
**Julia T. Brown, Esq., County Manager, Doña Ana County**  
*Reported by Marcia and Kurt Anderson*

**Budget Matters:** At the League's September 8 Lunch with a Leader, Julia T. Brown, Esq., having served as Doña Ana County Manager for nine months, shared her plans to meet the needs of the county while balancing expenditures and projected revenues. Aware that the county has been dipping into reserve funds to balance the budget, she examined ways to reduce expenditures and enhance revenues. Brown is using incremental steps to reduce the \$15 million imbalance. In 2015 spending from reserves will be reduced by \$6.5 million; in 2016 the reduction will be 3 million and in 2017 the amount from reserves will be zero. The projected budget will include a \$1 million increase in expenditures and a \$2.5 million increase in revenues.

**Centralizing Grants:** Doña Ana County has 37 of the 55 colonias in New Mexico. Because grant proposals were written separately within various departments, the infrastructure needs of these economically distressed areas have not been met in the most efficient manner. Re-centralization of the grant writing function has

been one of the important changes Brown has made.

**Constituent Concerns:** Dealing with issues brought to the county by its citizens in a timely manner and transparency about county issues and actions are to be facilitated through a Constituent and Community Services Unit. Information Technology will inform citizens throughout the state that New Mexico does not stop at Socorro. Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr) will be one of the ways to highlight and advertise the virtues of Doña Ana County.

**Employee Relations:** County Manager Brown also spent some time discussing the need to assure a non-hostile work environment within which employees would be protected against retaliation for reporting transgressions against them. While pay increases are not possible in the tight budget situation, other ways to enhance employee benefits will be initiated through a Health Fair and County Prescription card that will offer discounts on vision, dental and veterinary services.

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**Something New at Monthly Meetings - Erika Graf-Webster, President**

At our August Lunch with the Leader meeting, President Erika Graf-Webster asked if members would be willing to come a half hour earlier, i.e., at 11:00, to talk about League issues and procedures. The purpose of these half-hour sessions is twofold: first, to provide more information to the members about what is going on in the League studies and committees, and second, to get member input on possible problems and decisions that League leaders need to make.

ALL members are invited to these sessions. They are intended to be informal, casual conversations that enable members to share their views and get to know each other better.

Study and committee chairs are invited to briefly explain the current status of their

activities, and attendees are welcome to comment on these. In addition, one or two specific League issues will be raised by Erika for discussion and feedback.

At the September meeting, the issue under discussion was the future of the VOTER. After seven years (beginning in 2007) of very dedicated service, Bonnie Burn is resigning from her position as VOTER editor. To date, a search for a replacement has not been successful so perhaps it was time to "think outside of the box", and figure out what kind of a VOTER would be of most use to the membership. Erika asked the attendees how they use the VOTER: Do they print it first and read the printed copy? Do they read some of it, but not all of it? What part of the VOTER do

*(Continued on page 5)*

**Something New** *(Continued from page 4)*

they read first or most? (The answer was the Calendar on the front page.) Are there specific changes that would make the VOTER more useful to them? (The answer: shorter, crisper articles, maybe brief summaries of the articles placed just before the full body of the articles.)

Erika asked how the members would feel about an alternative format, such as a front page that showed an index of the articles with links to the articles, but without the detailed layout that

makes the *VOTER* look like a magazine or newsletter. There was some back and forth discussion on this, but in the end, when Erika asked for a show of hands, the majority of the attendees wanted the *VOTER* to continue in the same format as it is now. That means we would have to find someone with not only editing skills but also layout skills to take over for Bonnie. Unfortunately, we have yet to have a firm candidate for this job, though we have had a tentative offer from one of our members. Any more ideas? Let Erika know at [egrafwebster@q.com](mailto:egrafwebster@q.com).

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**Domenici Public Policy Conference, September 17-18, 2014,  
Las Cruces Conference Center - Erika Graf-Webster, President**

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The annual Domenici Public Policy Conference established in 2008 by former U.S Senator Peter V. Domenici (R), the longest serving U.S. Senator (1973-2009) from NM, gathered about 900 attendees. The program addressed some key issues (i.e., defense, immigration reform, cyber security, and the election process). Governor Susana Martinez and Gubernatorial Candidate Gary King addressed the conference on the second day.

Both local newspapers covered the major issues very well. The first session on bipartisan challenges in Washington, included Ms. Mary Wilson, former President, League of Women Voters of the U.S., who has served in many positions in the League in New Mexico and is currently a member of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico. She presented the League's position on many issues during a panel discussion including the continuing mission of educating voters through the League's voter services activities.

The League was represented by a number of members: Erika Graf-Webster, President, Gwen Hanson, Vice-President, Roberta Gran, Director, Speakers and Events, and members, Bonnie Burn, Mildred Evaskovich, Christina and William Little, and Ardyth Norem.

Across the board, the speakers at the conference were very good. Some of what

was said was a surprise to me:

- Leon Panetta, former Secretary of Defense, stressed how very harmful both the lack of a firm budget and the sequester budget cuts were to defense readiness.
- Whether identified as Republican or Democrat, the speakers decried the divisiveness in Congress, saying "compromise is not a dirty word", and spoke in support of immigration reform; several speakers stressed that immigration reform is a necessity from an economic perspective.
- Cyber espionage is so very prevalent, threatening our national security and stealing our intellectual property - this has cost us \$445 billion and two hundred thousand jobs; viral emails (emails where the sender asks that you forward it to other people) especially are full of malware (malicious software that harms computers and steals identity information).
- Both Charlie Black (Republican strategist) and Donna Brazil (Democratic strategist) lamented the amount of money being poured into political campaigns, and both wished that the Citizens United decision could be reversed.

All in all, this was a very interesting and worthwhile conference.



# League News



## **BUSY FALL FOR VOTER SERVICE -**

*Marcia Anderson, Co-Director*

Although attendance was light at the September 9 Candidates Forum, good questions were asked, a translator was provided by CAFé, and all four of the candidates expressed gratitude to the League for providing them with this opportunity. As voters, we appreciated hearing from Sandy Jones and Ben Hall, one of whom will be representing this region on the Public Regulation Commission; and the candidates for New Mexico Attorney General, Hector Balderas and Susan Riedel. All of the forums will be rebroadcast on CLC-TV, Comcast Cable Channel 20.

Thanks to the following people who helped with the first forum: Sue Cain, Johnnie Aldrich, Bonnie Burn, Dale Yeo, Bob Burn, Ellen Young and Gwen Hanson and, of course, Erika Graf-Webster, president and moderator. You all helped make it a success!

On October 7, LWVGLC will host its second forum with candidates for County Commission, Magistrate Judge, Probate Judge, Assessor and Sheriff. This forum will be followed a week later, October 14, with candidates for New Mexico House of Representatives.

**Voter Registration** - *Marjorie Burr, Chair:* At the suggestion of League member and LCPS Board President Bonnie Votaw, our fall voter registration drive reached into the schools to register teachers, employees and high school students who will be 18 by election day, November 4. We also registered voters at NMSU. We participated in the Doña Ana County Clerk's Election Fest at Young Park on Saturday, September 20.

Thanks to the many League members who staffed our tables and helped our fellow citizens take this important step toward participation in our democracy. Registration closes on October 7, the same day that early voting begins for the November 4 election.

**Voters Guide** - *Dale Yeo, Co-Director*  
The *Voters Guide* has been completed and is

currently in production. Both the English and Spanish editions will be ready for distribution in the October 5 issue of the Las Cruces Sun-News. Despite an unusual amount of technical computer problems with local email and other challenges in contacting candidates and eliciting responses, I am happy to report that 100% of the candidates will appear in the 2014 *Voters Guide*. The League is again pleased to collaborate with CAFé to produce a Spanish edition of the *Voters Guide*.

## **League of Women Voters of New Mexico** - *Barbara Calef, Presenter*

Members of the State League's Natural Resources Committee will be traveling to Las Cruces to present a Unit Meeting on a natural resources position that it is proposing to adopt by concurrence.

The meeting will be held on Monday, October 20, 10:00 a.m., Good Samaritan Social Center Conference Room that is near the Main Auditorium on the lower level.

To prepare you for the meeting, a separate document is being sent along with the October Issue of *The VOTER*. This document gives some background information and the proposed position.

### **Please bring this document with you to the Unit Meeting.**

State studies solicit committee members from the membership of all four local Leagues. Barbara Calef and other members of the committee are traveling from Los Alamos and Santa Fe to conduct this unit meeting. Please plan to attend.

**"In a society governed passively by free markets and free elections, organized greed always defeats disorganized democracy."**

— **Matt Taibbi, *Griktopia: Bubble Machines, Vampire Squids, and the Long Con That Is Breaking America***

## 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.*

You may have read a recent article in the *Las Cruces Sun-News* regarding a proposed rate hike for solid waste and recycling pickups. There have been many meetings to arrive at the place where we are today.

**Ratepayer Advisory Committee (RAC)**, September 9, 2014, Utilities Center, 680 N. Motel Blvd. - *Susan Schmugge, Observer*

RAC has been meeting since January, 2014, to consider the proposed rate hike for solid waste and recycle pickups and the reasons it was requested. All seven members who volunteered to serve on this committee had experience and expertise in the field. Their unanimous recommendations to the Las Cruces Utilities Board were based on a settlement reached between the Utilities Board and the RAC. The agreement also needed to reflect future economic and service growth. Las Cruces Utilities is responsible for bringing services to the city residents as well as to some adjacent communities.

**South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA)**, September 18, 2014, The Transfer Station, 2865 W. Amador Ave. - *Susan Schmugge, Observer*

The next step will be to determine the fee structure for solid waste and recycling. All services relating to solid waste and recycling are provided by the South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA). The board will meet on October 16 to hear several rate options presented by Director Patrick Peck. The rate structure will offer two sizes of waste receptacles, a 96 gallon and a 64 gallon. The smaller receptacle will cost less than the larger size. No decision has yet been made about the cost for recycling, and it too will be included on your bills, as it is now. Staff have calculated the recycling cost per household to be \$5.40 per house per month. Small commercial customers also will see a raise in fees.

Expect to see a campaign by everyone involved in solid waste and recycling to have one phone number for the public to call to inquire, report, or comment on services. Call **575-323-5086** or go to **LasCrucesRecycles.com**.

### CANDIDATES FORUMS

Las Cruces City Hall Chamber - Broadcast on CLC-TV

**Tuesday, October 7, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Magistrate Court Judges, County Commissioners, County Assessor, Probate Judge, and Sheriff

**Tuesday, October 14, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

New Mexico House of Representatives

**Sunday, October 5 - Voters Guide**

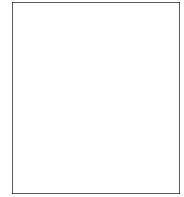
Las Cruces Sun-News





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**FIRST CLASS**

**October 6 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Afternoon Event**  
**Sunset Grill, Sonoma Golf Course**  
**ELECTION: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE**

**EXTRA** 

No Lunch with a Leader or  
 Pre-Lunch Meeting

0

**Membership Application**

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 2nd Household: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contributions:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ League of Women Voters Education  
 Fund (Tax Deductible)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Contribute to LWV of Greater Las  
 Cruces (Not tax deductible)

Mail checks to LWV of Greater Las Cruces,  
 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.

**October 2014**  
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October 20, 2014 - 10 a.m.  
**UNIT MEETING - Natural Resources**  
**League of Women Voters of NM**

Good Samaritan Social Center  
 Conference Room near Main Auditorium