

The VOTER

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



Confronting Water Scarcity in New Mexico's Future

Sam Fernald, Ph.D., Interim Director,
New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute (NM WRII)

Monday, September 9, 2013, 11:30 a.m., Good Samaritan Social Center
Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle

In his presentation, Dr. Fernald will place drought in the context of historic drought and statewide water budgets, look at surface water and groundwater interaction and consider what efficiency and sustainability mean.

Sam Fernald was appointed to his position in January 2011 and leads the institute in its mission to develop and disseminate knowledge that will assist the region, state, and nation in solving water resources problems. Dr. Fernald's earned degrees include a BA in international relations from Stanford University (1987), an M.E.M. in water and air resources from Duke University (1993), and a Ph.D. in watershed science from Colorado State University (1997). Also, he received two Fulbright Scholarships: Patagonia National University, Trelew, Argentina (2008) and the University of Concepcion, Concepcion, Chile (2000). Professor Fernald also is a faculty member in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences at NMSU.

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CALENDAR

NEW



September 3 (Tuesday) - **Deadline for Reservations for Lunch with a Leader.** RSVP Ruth Benjamins, Email: benjpa@q.com, Tel: 527-0204.

September 5 (Thursday) - 1:30-3:30 p.m., **Board Meeting**, Las Cruces City Hall, Room 2007. All are welcome!

September 9 (Monday) - 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., **Lunch with a Leader, Sam Fernald, Ph.D., Confronting Scarcity in New Mexico's Water Future.** Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. \$10. **Reservations Required.** If reservations are not cancelled, you will be charged for lunch.

September 19 (Thursday) - 2-4 p.m., **Third Thursday Book Club**, Selection: ***Dirty Wars: The World is a Battlefield*** by *Jeremy Scahill*, at the home of Vicki Simons, tel: 522-4813.

September 30 (Monday) - 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., **Unit Meeting, LWVNM Study of Alcohol: Ways to reduce alcohol-related deaths and damage in New Mexico**, Good Samaritan Social Center, Conference Room (near Main Auditorium), 3011 Buena Vida Circle

Notable Dates: **September 2** - Labor Day; **September 17** - U.S. Constitution signed (1787).

The VOTER

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The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

P.O. Box 8322
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Roberta Gran

Secretary - Christina Little

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Co-Director, Voter Services
Gracia Class
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Christina Little-373-1882

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*President's Message*

You would think that, during the dog days of summer, Las Cruces would be kind of a sleepy town with not much going on. This year, you would be wrong.

Among the many events and activities this summer, there were several community gatherings about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) presented by AARP, the Chamber of Commerce, NMSU and other organizations. If you have not had the chance to attend any of these, do not despair--there will be more during September. Take advantage of one or more of these events--a good understanding of the ACA will be of benefit to you.

Both the City Council and the County Commission have been quite active. The county held an election on July 30 for some bond issues and a very small rise in the gross receipts tax (GRT). Two of the bond issues passed (one ensuring that the new 911 emergency center is well on its way); another failed, along with the rejection of the small rise in the GRT. What is probably of greatest disappointment though to League members is that SO FEW people voted in this election--only 2,600 votes were cast in a county with a population of well over 200,000! We, the League, need to increase our commitment to promoting voter turnout even in local, small elections.

The City Council has been concentrating recently on two major issues: first, the city is proposing to raise the gross receipts tax (GRT) by 3/8th of 1 percent to compensate for the loss of the "hold harmless" payment from the state, and second, the city is in the middle of a zoning change battle that involves the old country club site and the proposal for building of a third hospital in Las Cruces. As a League observer of City Council actions, I have found it quite educational to attend the public meetings regarding both of these issues. The proposed redevelopment of the country club property has engendered a great deal of public passion, addressing issues such as "is this the best use of the property" and "do we really need a third hospital?" We continue to monitor city action in these areas because they definitely affect the overall quality of life within the community.

I mentioned in the July/August VOTER that Roberta Gran and I received training about the new Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) program that is being rolled out by the national League. Our Board of Directors has committed to getting this program off the ground over the next few months. One of the supporting activities in this area is to hold a League retreat in October, where we will be discussing specific steps for implementation of the MLD. We will be providing further information about this next month.

(Continued on page 3)

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

Our Voter Services activities have been kicked off for the upcoming Las Cruces municipal election in November. We have negotiated a financially favorable arrangement with the Las Cruces Sun-News to publish our *Voters Guide* for that election. We are looking forward to a mutually beneficial partnership with the Sun-News in this area.

Erika

Board Highlights - August 5, 2013 - Christina Little, Secretary

The board agreed to offer \$30 student memberships.

After final negotiations, the League will sign a contract with the *Las Cruces Sun-News* to publish the 2013 and 2014 *Voters Guides* plus the 2015 *Who's Who*.

The City Council Candidate Forum will be held on Tuesday, October 8 from 6-8 pm in the City Council Chambers. It will be televised.

A retreat is planned for Thursday, October 24 from 10 am to 4 pm at Gwen Hanson's home. All League members are welcome. One of the principal purposes of the retreat will be to fully discuss the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Program that has been initiated by the national League.

Joy Goldbaum, who is a member of both the El Paso and the Greater Las Cruces Leagues, was invited to and attended an El Paso League Board meeting. Stay tuned. There are some future possibilities for joint activities.

The next meeting of the board will be on Thursday, September 5, 1:30 – 3:30 pm in Room 2007A of the Las Cruces City Hall. All League members are invited to attend.

Have YOU Made a Reservation?

Members of the League and the public
are welcomed at the League's
Lunch with a Leader

Please make a reservation

Ruth Benjamins: 527-9294 or benjpa@q.com



New Member

Mildred Evaskovich
3045 Buena Vida Circle (#116)
Las Cruces, NM 88011
Phone: (575) 430-1530
Email: zmevasko@gmail.com

Friends of the League

- John Ameriks, M.D.
- Anonymous
- Robert Buggert
- Sharon Burbano
- Reed R. Burn
- Joseph P. Camunez, D.D.S.
- Dental Associates PA,
- David Sudimack, D.D.S.
- Donald Dresp
- Edward Jones - Connie Lee
- Roberta Gran
- Nancy & Ken Hall
- Win Jacobs
- Keller Williams Realty, Laura Szalay
- Al Kissling
- Pat Kratz
- Marlene Lavetts
- Lilley & O'Connell Law Offices
- Louise P. Lockhart
- Barbara Myers
- Jean Ossorio
- Clifford Pelton
- Nancy Phillips
- Kathryn Schultz
- Sunspot Solar Energy
- Donna Tate
- Williams Design Group, Inc.
- Zia Engineering & Environment
Consultants

Thank You

The elevator to success is out of order. You'll have to use the stairs.. one step at a time.

Joe Girard, Motivational Speaker



League News



League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

VOTER SERVICES

Prepared by Gwen Hanson, Co-Director

Voter Services activities for the Las Cruces Municipal Election (November 5) are on schedule and proceeding according to plan.

The schedule of events is as follows:

September 24 - Deadline for candidate filing.

October 1 - Certification of candidates by the Las Cruces City Clerk.

October 9 - November 2 - Early voting

November 5 - Municipal Election using Voting Convenience Centers

Voter Registration is being coordinated by Bonnie Burn. She is developing a registration schedule and contacting member registrar volunteers. Voter registration closes on October 8. National Voter Registration Day occurs on September 24. Leagues throughout the U.S., along with other organizations, will register voters throughout the U.S.

Voters Guide (2013 & 2014) and Who's Who (2015): A new contract for printing the *Voters Guide* and *Who's Who* publications for the next two years was sought through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The local newspapers, Sun-News and Bulletin, responded. The Board accepted the recommendations of the committee and approved negotiating the final contract with the Sun-News. The 2013 Las Cruces Municipal Election Voters Guide is expected to be distributed in early October.

Candidates Forum: A single **Candidates Forum** has been scheduled for **Tuesday, October 8, 2013, Council Chambers, City Hall, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** The candidates for City Council, District 3 (Olga Pedroza), District 5 (Gill Sorg), and District 6 (Sharon

Thomas who is not running for re-election), as well as, Municipal Judge, Division II (Judge Kieran Ryan), will be invited to participate.

Thanks to all the members who volunteered to assist with voter services activities. To volunteer or for questions, please contact: Gwen Hanson (556-9251 or gwenhanson10@gmail.com) Gracia Class (575-649-7951 or gracia.class@gmail.com)

Letter to League Member Regarding Sale of Recyclables

Dear Ms. [Charlotte] Lipson:

I received your email concerning oversight of the Friedman Recycling contract. So we can better serve the residents of Las Cruces, we appreciate comments from our customers.

The South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA) monitors and evaluates the efficiency of the recycling program by utilizing the following methods:

- Official oversight by the city is provided by representatives of the city on our Board of Directors; the financial status of the recycling program is provided to the Board at our regular monthly meetings
- All trucks are weighed upon departure from the SCSWA transfer station and again upon arrival at the Friedman Recycling plant.
- Friedman Recycling Company provides a monthly statement of commodity and our revenue sharing based on current market values.

Due to contamination, not all of the waste sent to the processing plant is recycled. A 2009 study by the El Paso Times concluded that 30% of the waste sent to Friedman's

(Continued on page 5)

Sale of Recyclables *(Continued from page 4)*

plant was not recyclable. Currently in Las Cruces, our contamination rate is around 13%. Ultimately, the contaminated material ends up in a landfill. However, SCSWA back hauls the refuse from the El Paso plant to Corralitos Landfill which allows inspection of material.

I would like to assure you that Friedman Recycling, Inc. is a reputable company. It has been in business for over 30 years and operates four state-of-the-art processing plants in Phoenix, Tucson, Albuquerque and El Paso.

Thank you for taking the time to contact us. If you have any other questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly at (575) 528-3589.

Sincerely,
Tiffany R. Pegoda
Interim Recycling Coordinator

cc: Mayor Ken Miyagishima
Councilor Miguel G. Silva
Klaus Kemmer
Patrick Peck

Editorial**New Mexico Behavioral Health Crisis**

by Bonnie Burn, Editor

Services for people with mental illness needs have suffered two blows this month.

The first came when taxpayers voted down a gross receipts tax of \$0.25 on a \$100 purchase (excluding medicine and food) to provide permanent funding to support the operation of the already constructed Crisis Triage Center in Doña Ana County. This tax initiative would have helped people with mental illness who were taken into protective custody by law enforcement by diverting them from the County Detention Center into a facility that, during a 23-hour stay, would

allow assessment and referral for treatment. The second blow was the unexpected shut-down of New Mexico's behavioral health providers after an audit alleged that \$36 million in fraud had been found. To fill the gap in service, companies from outside the state (e.g., La Frontera, Agave Health, Turquoise Health, Valle del Sol) were brought into New Mexico.

It is difficult to ascertain the truth about the need for the "shut down." Important questions have not been answered and audit results have not been shared with the public.

- Did a new computer program designed to detect Medicaid fraud sound alarms, as Senator Mary Kay Papen described in a recent Albuquerque Journal article (August 11, 2013)?
- Did Governor Martinez respond by hiring an outside auditor, Public Consulting Group, that has an alleged history of dubious audits, to investigate (Santa Fe New Mexican, Senator Linda Lopez, August 7, 2013)?
- Does the Governor have the authority to request an out-of-state audit and circumvent the NM Auditor?

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces is very concerned about the current circumstances. Lack of adequate services prompted the League to undertake a two-year study (2008-2010) about mental health services in Doña Ana County. A member consensus position adopted in 2010 supports:

an adequately funded mental health care system that provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically, and seriously mentally ill of all ages; maintains optimal mental health services for all clients; offers mental health services for the homeless; seeks additional funds for preventive services; implements a master plan to integrate services; raises awareness of critical unmet needs; and emphasizes case management.

(Continued on page 6)

Behavioral Health *(Continued from page 5)*

The audit referrals are currently in the hands of the NM Attorney General, and it may take as much as a year to complete the investigation. It is suggested that the NM examination will be more thorough than that completed by the Public Consulting Group. While that is ongoing, however, how are the clients who depend on the services now in the hands of outside organizations being served?

Until we have better, more accurate information, the League of Women Voters at the local and state levels will be monitoring the situation and take action as opportunity presents itself and the League's position allows.

League of Women Voters of the United States

Some members of the League and other organizations are participating in the March for the Dream on August 24th in celebration of Martin Luther King's historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

In the meantime, Pat McCrory, Governor of North Carolina, signed into law a bill that requires showing a voter photo ID when voting, cuts early voting in half, and ends registration at the polls during the early voting period. North Carolina and other states no longer have to abide by Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1964, the section recently struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court. No longer required to seek U.S. Department of Justice approval to make changes in election laws, some states are rushing to implement voter suppression measures.

Recourse to change these barriers to voting lies with the U.S. Congress that could pass legislation to restore the Voting Rights Act or through the court system.

The League of Women Voters of North

Carolina (LWVNC) is the lead plaintiff in one of the lawsuits that has already been filed.

It is truly sad that as we gather to celebrate the achievements of the civil rights movement, states are continuing to curtail voting rights and to erect barriers to voting that disproportionately impact the young, the elderly, poor and minority populations. The King March on Washington was not just about voting, it was about equality of opportunity. It is up to all of us who care about this issue to be alert and active in insuring that equality of opportunity is the hallmark of our election laws.

[Source: LWVUS Leaders' Update, 8/15/13]

Editor's Update: The U.S. Department of Justice announced on August 22 that it will challenge the voter ID law implemented in Texas because it violates the Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution's 14th and 15th Amendments. In a separate case, the Justice Department also will join in a challenge to the state's GOP-drawn redistricting plans.

The Justice Department also is looking at challenging a new law in North Carolina that includes voter ID and several other measures that are designed to suppress voting.

[Source: Washington Post, Breaking News, 8/22/2013]

NM Ad Hoc Border Immigration Reform Committee

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has organized advocacy efforts to ensure the passage of immigration reform laws. LWVGLC is participating along with individuals from NMSU, the Colonias Development Council, Society of Friends, and Great Conversations.

The latest effort was participation in Congressman Pearce's Town Hall held on August 22, by first marching from Holy Cross Church campus to the town hall on Sixth Street and then participating in the discussion.

Look Back - Doña Ana County: Values, Challenges & Opportunities
Lunch with a Leader, August 12, 2013: Commissioner Billy Garrett's Presentation
Bonnie Burn Reporting

Commissioner Billy Garrett, District 1, Doña Ana County, opened with remarks about the quality of life initiative in Doña Ana County. For the past two years, the initiative became part of the local communities in the county through the J. Paul Taylor Annual Symposium on Social Justice. At the end of the 2013 symposium and through a Kellogg Foundation Grant, the initiative has found a permanent home. The quality of life initiative will be sponsored by the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM) as the fiscal and administrative agent. The Ocotillo Institute for Social Justice is the new name of the quality of life initiative.

The values statement of Ocotillo Institute for Social Justice simply states that:

A just society ensures fundamental opportunities for all of its members. These opportunities are nurturing of human capability and grounded in human rights. They provide that all people should:

- *Be treated with respect in the spirit of equality;*
- *Live a life of normal length in good health with access to adequate nutrition, shelter, and education;*
- *Fully engage in political activity and personal relationships with protection under the law;*
- *Enjoy freedom of conscience, religion and belief, the benefits of culture and recreation, and contact with nature; and*
- *Be able to participate in economic activity and to find meaningful work at fair compensation.*

In the interest of social justice, we have a collective responsibility to expand these opportunities and to tear down any barriers to their access.

The Institute is forming a Board of Directors from members who have been associated with the initiative since the beginning and the addition of new community members. A director, Ryan Steinmetz, is employed by CFSNM, and two major components of the effort, the Empowerment Congress and Council of Advocates, are in development.

To effect change, Commissioner Garrett provided a chart that showed the relationships among

1. An engaged community of families, agencies, organizations, and community groups;
2. A complex world of opportunities and obstacles;
3. Individuals who have inborn capabilities are continually impacted by data influences on public policy and programs as they live their daily lives; and
4. Through it all, individuals have to feel empowered to participate and adjust expectations based on personal experience.

Engaging for change is hard and changing the conditions that affect quality of life issues is particularly difficult. Those who are successful anticipate and deal with uncertainty, are realistic about time, and keep their focus. They know when to be passionate and when to be thoughtful. They reach out to everyone who needs to be involved. They learn from their experience, stay positive, and measure their progress. They manage the change they want to create.

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Commissioner Garrett (*Continued from page 7*)

Seven suggested steps for managing change include:

1. Be clear about what you want to do, why, and how your action could lead to other changes.
2. Describe what success would look like.
3. Identify those you need to engage with or consider.
4. Know the facts.
5. Agree on a plan of action.
6. Act, measure, celebrate....and repeat.
7. Build on your experience.

Additional thoughts on engaging for change include the following. Although not crucial, going through the steps and finding the answers is critical. Remember that answers are going to be different depending on who is asking the question, and as different groups work through the questions, the differences between the information achieved from the groups can be a source of conflict or of strength.

Social justice initiatives require engagement. No one can see all sides of a complex problem from one point of view. No one can possibly envision the best way to achieve social justice with the resources available to just one group. No one can or should do it alone.

To quote from Commissioner Garrett's handout, "Engagement means integrating ideas and information, building lasting relationships with neighbors and colleagues, having the will to reach out beyond comfortable boundaries. Engagement fills in the gaps, lightens the load, and connects intentions with action over time."

If you want change, it's time to engage!

The final component of Commissioner Garrett's presentation was the commission's work to bring about a strategic plan for the county that can be tied to departmental budgets and eventually result in performance plans for managers and staff tied to outcomes of the plan.

The county has developed a mission statement*, guiding principles*, and goals for the guiding principles that more specifically identify expected outcomes. This process has been accepted at the commissioner and managerial level, and discussions between managers and staff are ongoing. Eventually it is expected that managers and staff will tie the goals to departmental budgets and outcomes will be identified to measure the progress of this effort.

As Commissioner Garrett's presentation continued, some audience members realized that he was discussing a philosophy of government. Woven through it were the ideas of civic engagement and strategic planning that lead to change and the ability to evaluate that change.

(*The VOTER, June 2012, pp. 4 and 5)

To be a good human being is to have a kind of openness to the world, an ability to trust uncertain things beyond your own control that can lead you to be shattered in very extreme circumstances for which you were not to blame. That says something very important about the condition of the ethical life: that it is based on a trust in the uncertain and on a willingness to be exposed; it's based on being more like a plant than like a jewel, something rather fragile, but whose very particular beauty is inseparable from that fragility.

Martha C. Nussbaum. American Law and Philosophy Professor, University of Chicago

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.

Mesilla Valley Public Housing

Authority, Tuesday, August 20, 2013 -
Vicki Simons, Observer

All Commissioners present: Art Jiron, Chair, Arturo Marrujo, Vice-Chair, Steve Pandak, Theresa Olguin-Fisher, and Felix Cordero were present for the meeting.

The following new employees were introduced:

- Andrea Polanco, Accounting Technician
- Denise Emery, VASH (Veteran Affairs Supported Housing) Coordinator that oversees the housing vouchers for veterans program.
- Christine Gonzales, Human Resources and Office Manager.

Steve Rosario from AMA (Annetti Machuca Associates), a private company that administers the general housing voucher program, gave a report reviewing the five years that AMA has overseen the program, including the deficiencies corrected and improvements made via technology. He strongly advocated for the advantages of privatizing housing authorities in general. The MVPHA is bringing administration of the program back in-house as a cost saving measure. There will be an extension of the contract for two additional months to smooth the transition.

Following approval of the agenda, minutes and conflict of interest inquiry by the Chairman, four routine resolutions were approved with little discussion from the Commissioners.

The rest of the meeting consisted of routine reports from staff members, Sharon Hansen,

Accountant, Lee Monague, Modernization/Maintenance Manager, Christina Quinones, Interim Housing Choice Voucher Program Manager, Jesse Padilla, Deputy Director, and Robbie Levey, Executive Director.

The meeting was adjourned.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Chairman Art Jiron announced his resignation from the Housing Authority for personal reasons.

Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) Board Meeting, Thursday, August 22, 2013, 5:00 - 6:40 p.m. - *Bonnie Burn, Observer*

Bonnie Votaw, Ed.D, was absent from this meeting.

As it was the first Board meeting following the start of the new school year (August 14), the agenda was very full and interesting. Issues of particular interest to the League and its education position are reported here. To view the complete meeting, visit the LCPS web site: www.lcps.k12.us.

Turnaround Schools Program, University of Virginia Model: Superintendent Rounds reported that he traveled to Virginia to attend a workshop on this program that was adopted during the 2012-2013 school year as a way to improve those schools that were given a D or F rating. (*See The VOTER, October 2012 and January 2013*)

The program is now operating in 11 LCPS schools. All schools have 90-day plans in place that seek to increase student performance and success through a standard-based data structured plan.

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LCPS Board Meeting *Continued from page 9)*

Principals held assemblies to introduce the program. Meetings, teacher observations, and review of data are ongoing. District coordinators and directors met, and a team effort is developing between them and the school principals that will reinforce the work of the program

Summer Professional Academy: The 4th annual program attracted over 600 educational professionals who registered for up to six sessions from a selection of 85. The professional development is directly related to the Common Core Standards (CCS) that will be implemented in the K-12 curriculum this year.

At the elementary level, teachers learned about pacing guides that are road maps for teaching the standards throughout the year. Developed by teachers, the standards are arranged in order to be taught, units of teaching, and a schedule has been set up to meet assessment of students. Practices for math, cultural reading, bridging strategies for English Language Learners (ELL), and depth of knowledge were covered. Pacing Guides are the model for the State of New Mexico. LCPS just learned that Washington State will be adopting the NM model, as well.

At the high school level, presentations about pacing guides, technology tools that support CCS, and bridging strategies for ELL were made.

Attention was paid to areas of the CCS that are most important and to ELL students who are a focus for the district.

A Secondary Institute for middle and high school teachers also was held. It continued to concentrate on CCS and content area for curriculum design. A goal of the institute is to have 3-1/2 hours of professional collaboration during the school year.

All of this programming is directed at increasing the students' quality of education.

Finance Report: Assistant Superintendent Terry Dean gave a financial report on the following schools:

- Las Montañas Charter High School: Superintendent Stan Rounds reported that Herb Torres was appointed Special Master to oversee the administrative and financial responsibilities of Las Montañas. This is a special position available to charter schools that need administrative help.

Mr. Dean reported that the financial reports were accurate and balanced out.
- La Academia Dolores Huerta Charter School: The financial reports from this school also were accurate and balanced out. Revenue and expenses were managed well.
- Las Cruces Public Schools: Received \$2.9 million increase in cash balance that will be used to off set \$4.3 million deficit. Utility expenses continue to be of concern

Other Business:Newly Appointed Principals, Assistant Principals and Administrators:

Superintendent Rounds introduced more than 30 newly appointed staff, the largest number during his administration.

Renaming Schools: A policy of ensuring that school names reflect the educational objective to be achieved prompts action by the school board to change the names of two schools:

- Mesilla Valley Alternative Middle School is the new name for the former Mesilla Valley Training center. It will serve students from 7th and 8th grades who are at-risk as identified by their teachers. The school will eventually accommodate 250 students.

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LCPS Board Meeting *(Continued from page 10)*

- Rio Grande Preparatory Institute is the name for the former San Andres High School. Students will have a curriculum that combines study with work through an Executive Assistance Program that matches students with local companies. In addition to diplomas, the students will graduate with certificates that enhance the possibilities of employment.

2013-2015 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the LCPS Board of Education and CSEC-LC (Classified School Employees), an agreement already ratified by members of CSEC, was ratified by members of the School Board.

Personal Recognitions:

Karen Robles, Staff Assistant to Superintendent Rounds and who is retiring, was recognized for her twenty-two years of service to the school district.

Jose Frias, Custodian, Onate High School, was recognized for his basketball center court painting that was featured on the front page of the Las Cruces Sun-News.



Joint Work Session of Las Cruces City Council and Doña Ana County Commissioners, August 15, 2013, 9 a.m., City Council Chambers, *Bonnie Burn, Observer*

Four agenda items were covered:

1. Animal Control Ordinance: There was public input and much discussion about developing a combined ordinance for the city and county. This issue was deferred until a future meeting so information can be gathered about capture and disposition of animals and additional input from the public.
2. Extra-Territorial Zone (ETZ): A joint powers agreement about management of the ETZ has been in effect since 1987. The city is proposing to change the agreement in light of government entities and policies that are now in place (e.g., zoning, professional staff, and policies). This issue will be developed further in a separate work session city and county staff.
3. Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority Facility bond issue will go forward at a cost of \$8.2 million, \$6 million from recently approved GO bonds and \$2.5 million from the NM Legislature.
4. Food Policy Council made an information presentation.

Dr. Sam Fernald *(Continued from page 1)*

New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute is one of 54 water institutes in the nation, that encourages university faculties statewide to pursue critical areas of water resources research while providing training opportunities for students and transfers research findings to the academic community, water managers and the general public.

Dr. Fernald's primary research interests include water quality hydrology, land use effects on infiltration, runoff, sediment yield, nonpoint source pollution, and effects of surface water/groundwater exchange on water availability and water quality. He is leading a multi-institutional five year, \$1.4 million water research project funded by the National Science Foundation. In addition to NMSU, partners in the study include the University of New Mexico, New Mexico Tech, Sandia National Laboratories, the New Mexico Acequia, and the Maxwell Museum.

We invite you to join us for lunch and a discussion about a valuable resource—WATER.



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FIRST CLASS



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Membership Application



Membership: Individual (\$60), 2nd Household Member (\$30), and Students (\$30)
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.