

# The VOTER

League of Women Voters  
of Greater Las Cruces  
Las Cruces NM  
524-VOTE (8683)  
www.lwvglc.org  
April 2012



## 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

Most important general meeting of the year!

Saturday, April 14, 2012 - 9 a.m. - Breakfast Meeting  
Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions . . . . . Bonnie Burn
2. Preliminary Business Matters . . . . . Bonnie Burn
  - Appoint Minutes Recorders and Readers
  - Appoint Parliamentarian
  - Adopt Business Meeting Rules
3. Changes to the Agenda . . . . . All
4. Approval of the 2011 Annual Meeting Minutes . . . . . Martha Duran
5. Treasurer's Report (Handouts at Meeting) . . . . . Ruth Benjamins
6. Report from the President . . . . . Bonnie Burn
7. Special Member Recognition . . . . . Bonnie Burn

#### Annual Meeting Business

- Adoption of the Nonpartisan Policy . . . . . Bonnie Burn
- Adoption of the 2012-2013 Proposed Budget . . . . . Erika Graf-Webster
- Proposed Program for Study and Action . . . . . Marjorie Burr
  - Adoption of current Statement of Positions
  - Adoption of Recommended/Non-Recommended Program for Study and Action
  - Prioritizing Ongoing Program for Study and Action
- Report of the Nominating Committee and Election . . . . . Vicki Simons

#### Other Annual Meeting Business

- Identification of LWVNM Council Delegates (May 12, Albuquerque)
- Identification of LWVUS Convention Delegate (June 8-12, Washington, DC)
- Direction to the Board from Members
- Announcements

#### Adjournment

**This meeting will start with a buffet breakfast at 9 a.m.  
Cost: \$10 - RSVP by Wednesday (April 4, 2012)  
Marjorie Burr: 522-2528 or  
email: burrmmb@aol.com**

**The VOTER**

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

P.O. Box 8322  
Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322  
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)  
www.lwvglc.org

**President** - Bonnie Burn

**Vice President & Program**  
(Open)

**Secretary** - Martha Duran

**Treasurer** - Ruth Benjamins

**Director, Membership**  
Roberta Gran

**Director, Voter Services**  
Erika Graf-Webster

**Nominating Committee**  
Vicki Simons, Chair  
Sadie Valverde, Elected Member

**STUDY GROUPS**

**Affordable Housing**  
Vicki Simons - 522-4813  
Chris Little - 573-1882

**Education**  
Jane Asche - 532-8087  
Sue Cain - 647-9=8250

**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 - 405-7530  
daleyeo@comcast.net

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

**Appointment of a Parliamentarian: William Little**

**Business Meeting Rules:**

- Only members will have the privilege of the floor.
- No person may speak twice until all members who wish to speak have spoken.
- Motions with wording important to the minutes will be submitted in writing to the secretary.
- Adoption of recommended items requires approval by a majority of members present; adoption of non-recommended items requires a 2/3's vote.
- Those members present at the Annual Meeting shall constitute a quorum.

**League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**April 16, 2011, 9:00 a.m.**

**Good Samaritan Village, Creative Arts Room, Las Cruces, NM**

The breakfast meeting was called to order by President Burn at 9:45 a.m.

Twenty-nine members were present: Jane Asche, Helen Buggert, Sharon Burbano, Bonnie Burn, Marjorie Burr, Sue Cain, Mickey Curtis, Shannez Dudelczyk, Martha Duran, Barbara Goedecke, Erika Graf-Webster, Caroline Jackson, Al Kissling, Marnie Leverett, Chris and William Little, Betty Lovelace, Charlotte McCarthy, Judy McGuire, Betty Pool, Diane Prindeville, Susan and Tom Schmutge, Kate Schultz, Vicki Simons, Donna Tate, Sadie Valverde, Dale Yeo, Ellen Young

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Bonnie welcomed all attendees, and asked the members to reseal themselves by using a numbering game. This offered an opportunity for new and long term members to get acquainted.

**Preliminary Business:**

- Martha Duran, Secretary, and Diane Prindeville were appointed as recorders. In addition, a tape recorder was used to capture the complex discussion of the business of the League.
- William Little was appointed as

parliamentarian.

- The Business Meeting rules (see p. 2 of the Annual Meeting VOTER) were adopted by motion made by Carol Jackson, seconded by Vicki Simons and passed unanimously by members.

**Changes to the Agenda:** None

**Approval of the 2010 Annual Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes were read by appointed readers, Erika Graf-Webster and Sandra Tatum, within a few weeks after the 2010 Annual Meeting. On a motion by Erika Graf-Webster, seconded by Sharon Burbano, the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** An FY 2010-2011 final report was distributed at the meeting by treasurer, Barbara Goedecke.

	<b>Budget 2010-2011</b>	<b>Actual 4/16/2011</b>
Total Income	\$9,940	\$15,583
Total Expenses	\$9,940	\$11,895
Cash On Hand	\$4,760	\$3,688
In-Kind Donate		\$663
CD*	\$1,064	\$1,076
(Matures on 1/14 of each year)		

Education Fund \$2,301 \$1,150  
 Members raised questions about the checkbook balance and the reasons for the difference between a beginning fiscal balance of \$4,760 and an ending balance of \$3,688, a difference of \$1,072. Bonnie Burn explained that the final ledger balances showed Income received as \$13,315.85 and Expenses as \$14,387.85, a difference of \$1,072. The fund drive from community supporters was much less this year. Based on an analysis that was presented later during the adoption of the FY 2011-2012, the LWVUS continual increase in annual per member payment is causing us to keep less of our dues payments in our local treasury.

Members asked questions about our Education Fund balance that was used to pay for voter services activities related to the 2011 mid-term elections. Bonnie Burn gave the following information:

**Income (2010-2011)**

Beginning Balance . . . . .	\$2,301
Contributions	
Members . . . . .	\$1,094
Community . . . . .	\$845
Grant—LWVNM . . . . .	\$678
Transfer from Op Fund . . . . .	\$575
Transfer from Ed Fund . . . . .	\$2,000
Total . . . . .	\$6,092

**Expenses**

Candidates Forum . . . . .	\$166
Voters Guide . . . . .	\$4,250
Who's Who . . . . .	\$0
Election Day Expenses . . . . .	\$130
Total . . . . .	\$4,546

Ellen Young suggested that the current ledger Excel spreadsheet be changed to the automated Quicken software, and she offered to help set up the FY 2011-2012 financial records.

Although there were questions and some confusion about the Annual Treasurer's Report, it was accepted on a motion by Susan Schmutge, seconded by Carol Jackson and passed by members.

**Report from the President:** Bonnie Burn had nothing further to add to what was published in her President's Message, p. 9, of the Annual Meeting VOTER.

**Special Member Recognition:**

- Marnie Leverett was recognized for achieving lifetime membership that recognized 50 years of League membership. She received a letter of recognition and a certificate from LWVUS and a bouquet of flowers from members.
- Erika Graf-Webster acknowledged chairs of voter services who were instrumental in creating a successful voter services year: Tom Schmutge for his efforts on behalf of voter registration and Nancy Phillips for her efforts on behalf of candidates' forums.
- Dale Yeo was recognized by Erika Graf-Webster for producing the *Voters' Guide* that required coordination with LWVNM and the publisher, *The Bulletin*. She was also recognized for single-handedly researching all of the information required to update the *Who's Who* directory. Erika presented Dale with a crystal paperweight engraved with the League Logo and League name.
- Sharon Burbano, on behalf of Board members, presented Bonnie Burn, who is ending her first term as President, with a special Copper Canyon bowl in recognition of her service to the League.

**2011 Annual Meeting Business:**

**Adoption of the Nonpartisan Policy:** On a motion by Dale Yeo, seconded by Kate Schultz, the nonpartisan policy was adopted unanimously.

**Adoption of Proposed Budget for FY2011-2012:**

Erika Graf-Webster, chair, Budget Committee, presented the proposed budget. At the request of the Board, Erika calculated a cost per member to operate the League and demonstrated that the average income from members' dues is \$7.56 resulting in a net operational shortfall of \$9.57 per member (see p. 8, Annual Meeting VOTER). She also reviewed the changes in the combined LWVUS and LWVNM per member payments that have increased by \$15 over the period 1998-2011. A chart of per member payment provided by LWVUS was provided for review by members. As a result, the Budget Committee is proposing an increase in dues payment from \$50 to \$60 for Individual and from \$25 to \$30 for 2<sup>nd</sup> household members. Because some members indicated that they preferred a printed rather than an online copy of the monthly newsletter, The VOTER, the Budget Committee proposed offering a paid subscription at

**2011 Annual Meeting Minutes** *(Continued from page 3)*

the annual rate of \$12. The rate does not cover the full cost of printing and mailing. A subsidy is included in this budget for 10 subscriptions.

**Motion:** Vicki Simons moved and Susan Schmugge seconded the motion that the annual dues be increased from \$50 to \$60 for Individual and from \$25 to \$30 for 2<sup>nd</sup> household members. The motion passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Al Kissling moved and Betty Lovelace seconded the motion that the annual budget, including the subscription to The VOTER, be adopted. The motion passed unanimously.

**Proposed Program for Study and Action:**

Marjorie Burr presented the program.

- **Adoption of Current Positions:** Marjorie reviewed the titles of all of our local positions, p. 27-32 of the Membership Directory. Marnie Leverett moved and Chris Little seconded a motion to adopt all current positions. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Adoption of Recommended Program for Study and Action:** Marjorie presented the request from the Affordable Housing and Education Study Committees to extend each study for one more year. The issues are complex and the studies cannot be completed in one year. Carol Jackson moved and Kate Schultz seconded a motion to continue the Affordable Housing and Education studies for one more year. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Adoption of Non-Recommended Program for Study and Action:** None were presented.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Donna Tate presented the proposed slate of officers.

President: Bonnie Burn (2011-2013)

Vice President and Program:

Shannez Dudelczyk (2011-2012)

Treasurer: Barbara Goedecke (2011-2013)

Director of Membership:

Roberta Gran (2011-2013)

Nominating Chair: Open

Nominating Elected Member: Sadie Valverde

Remaining on the Board for 2011-2012:

Secretary: Martha Duran

Director of Voter Services:

Erika Graf-Webster

The floor was open for nominations to all positions.

Vicki Simons volunteered to fill the Nominating Committee chair position.

**Motion:** Dale Yeo moved and Susan Schmugge seconded a motion to elect the presented slate. The motion passed unanimously.

**Other 2011 Annual Meeting Business:**

**LWVNM Convention Delegates:** The biennial state convention is scheduled for May 13-15 and is hosted by LWV of Los Alamos. Greater Las Cruces League may fill five delegate seats. Bonnie Burn encouraged members to let her know if they can attend. Reimbursement is offered for registration (\$40) and banquet (\$35).

**Directions to the Board:**

1. Membership Director Susan Schmugge proposed an idea for increasing revenue. Because the League keeps only \$8 for its treasury after paying per member payment to state (\$12) and national (\$30) from a \$50 dues, she suggested that perhaps those members who are not active may consider becoming "Friends" of the League. Friends (or community supporters) receive the monthly newsletter, copies of all League publications, can attend Lunch with a Leader meetings if they so choose, and are recognized in the VOTER. They may not vote on League business or consensus or concurrence positions. Members thought this was a good idea that should be handled with a great deal of sensitivity and on an individual basis.
2. Marjorie Burr suggested that the Lunch with a Leader meetings include one or two speakers about education.
3. Erika Graf-Webster suggested that the League suspend activities during July and August.
4. A discussion ensued about encouraging more member participation in scheduled League activities and recruitment of new members. Perhaps holding Lunch with a Leader at different, new locations, having "afternoon socials", instead of Lunch with a Leader, holding topic unit meetings, and sponsoring social events in various places or member homes around town were suggestions. Topic unit meetings can be held in the morning, afternoon, or evening and in a public place or private home. Dale Yeo and Carol Jackson offered their home for unit meetings.

**Announcements:** Bonnie Burn reported that in addition to our local studies about Affordable

Housing and Education, LWVUS has asked that GLC review the LWVUS Education Study papers and consensus questions. LWVUS is studying the federal role in education. This review should occur sometime in the fall.

**Adjournment:** Tom Schmutge moved and Susan Schmutge seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**TREASURER’S REPORT - Ruth Benjamins**

The treasurer’s report will be distributed at the Annual Meeting.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT - Bonnie Burn**

Comments to be made at Annual Meeting in addition to report found on p. 12

**2012 ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS**

**NONPARTISAN POLICY**  
(Membership Directory, pp. 18-19)

**PROPOSED PROGRAM**  
*Marjorie Burr, Facilitator*

**CURRENT POSITIONS**  
(See pp. 28-33, Membership Directory) and the following two new positions approved by the Board of Directors in 2011-2012.)

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING POSITION**  
(Adopted by the Board of Directors 2012)

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, developmental agreements, rehabilitation, fee waivers, density bonuses, and an affordable housing trust fund and land bank.
- Support policies that link transportation, land use, and affordable housing.

**EDUCATION POSITION (1998, 1999)**  
(Adopted by the Board of Directors 2011)

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces (LWVGLC) supports public schools as the primary method of educating students, K-12. Further the League believes that education is the cornerstone to perpetuating a strong and viable democracy. The public education system should establish as important goals for all students an understanding of the nature of democracy and the responsibilities of citizenship, the ability to think critically, and the acquisition of skills necessary to continue to learn and function as adults in a complex society.

In addition, the LWVGLC supports the following strategies to ensure the greatest possible academic success for all students:

Innovative Practices for Student Success:

- The use of accepted national standards for a common core curriculum that provides a uniform body of knowledge and academic skills for all students, accompanied by flexibility for local school systems to determine how this body of knowledge and skills is imparted to students.
- Alternative educational options for parental choice within the public education system that fit the individual abilities and learning needs of their children.
- Project-based learning focused on developing critical thinking and problem solving skills of students, as well as the use of technology for self-paced learning.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Proposed 2012-2013 Operation Budget

(Assuming 86 full plus 12 household members)

Category	Budget 2011-2012	Actual as of 4/30/2012	Budget 2012-2013
<b>Retained Cash on Hand</b> (Actual as of 1/31/12)		\$5,049	
<b>CD Interest (Value 1,083.84)</b> Cash Out 1/17/12)		\$24	\$0
<b>Income</b>			
Member Dues <sup>1</sup>	\$5,520	\$5,195	\$5,160
Voter Subscription	\$120	\$48	\$72
Contributions			
Members	\$1,500	\$1,564	\$1,000
Community	\$500	\$2,530	\$500
Fund Raising Event	\$1,437	\$0	\$2,141
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$9,077</b>	<b>\$9,337</b>	<b>\$8,873</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Per Member Payment			
LWVUS <sup>2</sup>	\$2,760	\$2,760	\$2,666
LWVNM <sup>3</sup>	\$1,104	\$1,104	\$1,032
Meeting & Conventions			
LWVUS Convention <sup>4</sup>	\$650	\$0	\$1,300
LWVUS Council	\$0	\$0	\$0
LWVNM Council <sup>5</sup>	\$0	\$100	\$350
LWVNM Convention	\$500	\$78	\$0
Legislative Day <sup>6</sup>	\$300	\$0	\$300
Local Annual Meeting	\$100	\$64	\$0
Legislative Breakfast	\$100	\$16	\$100
Study Group Expenses			
Affordable Housing	\$100	\$97	\$0
Education Study Forum	\$100	\$218	\$150
Voter Registration	\$0	\$0	\$100
Office Expense			
Telephone	\$550	\$480	\$450
P.O. Box	\$75	\$60	\$75
Office Supplies (Incl. Postage)	\$300	\$528	\$300
Membership Expenses	\$300	\$150	\$300
Fund Drive Expenses	\$100	\$47	\$100
Web Site Domain <sup>7</sup>	\$57	\$57	\$0
Web Site Annual Fee <sup>7</sup>	\$81	\$81	\$0
Liability Insurance <sup>8</sup>	\$375	\$0	\$0

### Operating Budget Notes

1. Member Dues:  
\$4,800 = Individual 80@\$60  
\$ 360 = 2nd Household 12@\$30  
\$5,160
2. Per Member Payment to LWVUS is budgeted at \$31 per full member, \$15.50 per 2nd household member
3. Per Member Payment to LWVNM is \$12 per full member, \$6 per 2nd household member
4. Assumption: \$650 is carry over from 2011-12 for a total of \$1,300
5. Assumption: Council is in Albuquerque and budget is for 2 delegates. ~\$25 registration fee, \$150 for Hotel, and \$0.20 per mile for round trip @450 miles.
6. Assumption: Desert Inn Government rate = \$69 plus \$8 parking.
7. Web site domain name and service provided was renewed in 2011 for two years. This expense will need to be budgeted in 2013.
8. Liability Insurance was not purchased in 2011 and is not expected to be purchased.

*Membership  
Dues Renewal  
(2012-2013)*

*May - June 30, 2012*

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

**BUDGET - FY 2011-2012** (Continued from page 6)

Category	Budget 2011-2012	Actual as of 4/30/2012	Budget 2012-2013
Voter Service Support (Transfer to Ed Fund)	\$0	\$3,100	\$0
Publications			
VOTER Printing	\$600	\$670	\$600
VOTER Postage <sup>8</sup>	\$400	\$486	\$350
Brochure :New	\$150	\$101	\$350
Member Brochure			
Membership Directory	\$225	\$217	\$200
Membership Directory Postage	\$150	\$102	\$150
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$9,077</b>	<b>\$10,516</b>	<b>\$8,873</b>
<b>Estimated Net Loss</b>		<b>-\$1,179</b>	

*The VOTER  
Subscription*

*\$12 per year*

**Make checks payable  
TO  
LWV of  
Greater Last Cruces  
and  
SEND TO  
LWV of  
Greater Las Cruces  
P.O. Box 8322  
Las Cruces, NM 88006**

**PROPOSED 2012-2013 EDUCATION FUND BUDGET**

Category	Budget 2011-2012	Actual as of 4/30/2012	Budget 2012-2013
<b>Income</b>			
Transfer from Operations Funds			
• for Voters' Guide			
• for Expenses			
Retained Balance	\$860	\$1,150	\$4,600
Member Donations	\$900	\$1,710	\$500
Community Support	\$800	\$2,035	\$500
Projected Income from Community Events			
LWVNM Grant for Voters' Guide	\$0	\$2,000	\$0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,560</b>	<b>\$6,895</b>	<b>\$6,100</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Voter Services			
Voters Guide <sup>1</sup>	\$1,000	\$3,100	\$4,500
Candidates' Forum <sup>2</sup>	\$300	\$35	\$300
Who's Who <sup>3</sup>	\$15	\$0	\$0
Retain for Voter Services <sup>4</sup>	\$895	\$3,760	\$1,000
Public Education			
Public Issue Forum	\$350	\$0	\$300
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$2,560</b>	<b>\$6,895</b>	<b>\$6,100</b>

**Education Fund Notes**

1. \$3,100 includes payment to *The Bulletin for Voters Guides*:  
\$1,074 - 2009 Las Cruces Voters Guide - Late Billing  
\$2,016 - 2011 Las Cruces Voters Guide
2. Photocopy Fact Sheets (\$12.94) and We Care Brochures (\$22.34)
3. *The Bulletin* sponsored the 2011 *Who's Who* at no cost to LWVGLC.
4. Retained for Voters Services is the balance in the education Fund that is retained for publication of the *Voters Guide* in the following year.

**Current Positions: Education** *(Continued from page 5)*

- The engagement of local businesses in formalized one-on-one relationships through partnerships with individual schools that benefit student preparation for the workforce.
- Business initiatives that offer incentives to encourage students to develop career skills, graduate from high school, and seek work schedules that support student attendance at school.

Early Childhood Education and Community and Parent Involvement:

- Collaboration among a broad base of community organizations, social service agencies and the local school system to provide parents with programs to assist their children from birth to age 5 in acquiring the language experiences that prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond.
- Programs that encourage increased parental involvement in the education of their children that are welcoming and inclusive of parents from economically disadvantaged families.

Evaluation of Teachers, Students and School Performance

- Student evaluation that focuses on student academic progress rather than rigid standards of proficiency.
- Standardized testing that is focused on measuring student progress in all core academic subject areas over frequent intervals and provides timely results to the teacher to guide the design of instruction to aid individual student progress.
- Teacher performance evaluations that demonstrate the teacher's in-depth knowledge in core academic subjects and pedagogy.
- Evaluation of teachers based on achievement of personal professional goals in the performance evaluation plans developed at the local school system level that includes job performance observations and consideration of student academic progress.
- Termination of teachers and principals using a due process procedure when they no longer meet minimum standards.

Finances and Funding

- Funding for public education positioned as the

highest of state budget priorities.

- A funding formula that provides for a high quality education for all students that is consistently and fairly applied across the state.
- Public education funding being limited to public schools or alternative options that fall within the public school system.
- Funding of programs that foster children's language development, from birth to age 5, for success in kindergarten and beyond.
- Full funding of all state and federal mandates, so as not to place an undue burden on the local school system.

The League recommends that the assessment of the performance of schools and of teachers be based on multiple factors that indicate not only the overall quality of the education provided to the students, but also improvements in student academic growth measured through multiple methods, not solely through standardized tests.

**Approved October 5, 2011 by Board of Directors  
League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces**

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**PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAM  
FOR 2012-2013**

**A Study of Impediments to Voter Participation in Doña Ana County.** The scope of the study is to research voter participation by the general population and by sub-populations to discover whether populations with certain characteristics display different voting behaviors. This could involve analysis of historic voting records by ethnicity, age, gender, income, type of residence (urban or rural), and type of election (general, primary, municipal, bond issue, school board). If statistically significant discrepancies among eligible voters of different populations are found, the study should be prioritized by size of the population in order to discover what variables account for this. Possible government actions could then be proposed to remove impediments to voter participation in the general population and/or for specific groups.

**Recommended:** This study is proposed as a recommended program for study and action.



**Proposed Local Program** *(Continued from page 8)*

**A Study of Immigration Issues in Doña Ana County.** Equity of enforcement of current immigration laws is a concern. The scope of this study could involve investigation of practices of law enforcement, working relationships and cooperation among federal and local agencies, disposition of cases for those found to be illegal residents, and other practices affecting the well-being of both citizens and non-citizens living in Doña Ana County. It is expected that this study would draw on information collected by at least two local organization: TAIS (Taskforce for Immigration Advocacy and Services), and CAFÉ (Comunidades en Accion y Fē) and the Immigration Task Force organized by Ambassador Delano Lewis, director,

International Relations Institute, NMSU, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Immigration organized by Olga Pedroza, Councilor, City of Las Cruces.

**Not-Recommended:** This study is not recommended as a program for study and action.

**Adoption Process:** A study item is recommended by the Board for consideration at Annual Meeting. All recommended items are considered and adopted by majority vote. If an item is not recommended by the Board, it may be considered at the Annual Meeting if the membership votes to do so by majority vote, and it may be adopted by a two-thirds vote.

**Nominating Committee Report**

The following nominees are proposed for election:

**For Two Year Terms (2012-2014)**

Vice President & Program Secretary      Erika Graf-Webster  
 Martha Duran  
 Co-Directors, Voter Service:  
 Gwen Hanson and Gracia Class

**For One Year Term (2012-2013)**

Treasurer      Ruth Benjamins  
 (Completing second year of unfilled 2-year term)

**Nominating Committee (One Year Term)**

Chair:      Nancy Phillips  
 Elected Member      Judith Scott

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Simons, Chair  
 Sadie Valverde, Elected Member  
 Susan Schmutge, Director of Membership

**Introducing the Proposed Nominees**



**Erika Graf-Webster – Candidate for Vice President & Program (2012-2014)**

Erika’s long working career was spent entirely in technology areas. Starting as a computer programmer in the late ‘60s, she quickly went on to the Systems Analysis and Design field. She has designed and implemented numerous systems, including the first database for storing and managing SAT tests and scores. Over the last 20 years, she worked as a Senior Systems Engineer and Project Manager for large programs in the defense and intelligence arenas. In these roles, she also developed extensive skills in process engineering (e.g., developing systematic, repeatable processes that ensure end-to-end correct development of high-quality systems).

Erika retired 5 years ago, and moved to Las Cruces 4 years ago for the sunshine. She is not married and has no children. She has pursued two major hobbies for many years: (1) Breeding, showing and judging (as a certified all-breed judge) pedigreed cats, and (2) Making jewelry.

Erika joined the LWCGLC four years ago, and has served as Voter Services Director for the last 2 years.

*(Continued on page 10)*

**Introductions to Nominees** *(Continued from page 9)***Martha Duran – Candidate for Secretary (2012-2014)**

I can trace my ancestry back before the Revolutionary War. Born in Oregon, I completed my

education at Stanford where I met and married an engineering student, a Turk who “forgot” to go home. He settled us in Pullman, Washington, where he taught Physical Metallurgy for many years. Three children, lots of volunteering, and budding interests in art and travel kept me busy.

I became the Executive Director of the local United Way, initially from my back bedroom, but later from a downtown office.

My two passions are book art, that is paper making, marbled end papers, watermarks, book binding, and travel. My most interesting trips were to China when Mao was in control, to the Soviet Union under Stalin and to Cuba last year.

I moved to Las Cruces in 2000 to help my daughter, Meli, with her medical problems that had a sad ending in 2009. When I can, I visit with my sons, their wives and children, and the three cute little great grandchildren.

**Gwendolyn (Gwen) Hanson – Candidate for Co-Director, Voter Services (2012-2014)**

Gwen is a new resident of Las Cruces, as well as a first-time member of the League of Women Voters, both occurring in 2011.

She is a licensed clinical social worker, and has worked in mental health settings as a psychotherapist and as a prevention specialist in a large suburban public school district. Her MSW degree was earned at the University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work, after completing a BA in Sociology. Prior to moving to New Mexico, she volunteered locally and nationally with the American Red Cross, Disaster Mental Health Services.

Gwen is married to Thomas Hanson, M.D, has three married adult daughters, and eight grandchildren. The Hansons were long-time residents of Houston, Texas, where they raised their family and each practiced. Gwendolyn retired from her position as a Prevention Specialist from a Houston area suburban school district, Humble ISD, in 2003.

**Gracia Class – Candidate for Co-Director, Voter Services (2012-14)**

Gracia was born, raised, and educated in Michigan. She received a B.A. from Western Michigan University in Secondary Education and worked as a teacher in Michigan and Oregon.

She has had a fairly long relationship with New Mexico despite having moved here only last year. She put her husband through the University of New Mexico from '68 through '71 by working as a caseworker for Bernalillo County Social Services (she has no idea what it is called now).

Her scholar-husband has worked in California, Colorado, Oregon and Michigan while she was tending the family of three children. Because of the importance of grandparents, she moved back to Michigan in the late '70's, narrowly missing the PCB scandal. When the children reached school age, she became a substitute teacher for 10 years, and then worked at a church as Director of Education for 8 years. She finished her working career as nanny for triplets, aged 19 months, and their 3-year-old sister until they went to school full time.

She has worked locally on two national political campaigns. As a result, she is concerned about poverty, education, the environment, young children and politics in general.

After her husband retired, they came to New Mexico as "snowbirds" for two years. They realized that unlike Albuquerque, Las Cruces had no snow (anything that melts by 10 AM doesn't qualify for people from Michigan) so they bought a wonderful house that requires a minimum of housework. One son is married and will have 2 children in early June, and one daughter will be married in May.

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Introductions to Nominees *(Continued from page 10)*

### Ruth M. Benjamins – Candidate for Treasurer (2012-2013)

Ruth was born and grew up in Binghamton, New York. After high school, she went to the University of Michigan and received a degree in Chemistry. She went to work for Abbott Labs as a radiochemist. Ruth married and moved back to Ann Arbor while her husband completed his PhD in Chemistry. Afterwards, they lived in Wilmington, Delaware, where she became active in the League. When her husband was transferred to a plant in western Michigan, Ruth obtained a certification in Secondary Education. She then taught Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics for 25 years.

After retirement they moved to Las Cruces where they have lived for 23 years. She has served as treasurer for the Symphony Guild, the Las Cruces Branch of AAUW. She is presently the State Finance Officer for AAUW, as well as the treasurer of LWVGLC.



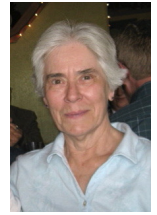
### Nancy Phillips - Chair, Nominating Committee (2012-2013)

Nancy was born in San Francisco and has spent most of her life living and working in the SF Bay Area. She retired from mostly clerical work for the State of California in health

care and education venues. She moved to Las Cruces in 2006 to be near her youngest daughter, who teaches social studies at Mayfield High School. She has three other adult children who live in New York City, Sonoma, California and Paris, France. Her two granddaughters live with their moms in Sonoma and Paris.

She had never been a League member before coming to Las Cruces, but has served as Secretary on the Board and assisted the Director of Voter Services over the past five years. Currently, she volunteers with the Friends of Branigan Library and the No Strings Theater, enjoys reading, walking, bridge, Scrabble and travel.

### Judith Scott – Elected Member, Nominating Committee (2012-2013)



Judith's employment has been in human services: field social worker with families and individuals dealing with mental retardation, research analyst for the Equal Employment Opportunity program, career and personal counselor for a nonprofit vocational agency, and finally retiring from a very small practice as a licensed counseling psychologist.

Judith's working life, frequently interrupted, started after her oldest daughter began school. Judith accepted the interracial challenges of the 1960s by personally welcoming three more daughters through adoption. Judith is married to Paul Thomas, retired cellist. Paul and Judith came to Las Cruces in 1999 from St. Paul, Minnesota, and will celebrate their twentieth wedding anniversary this September.

Attending the University of Minnesota, Judith earned degrees in studio art/German, library science, and educational psychology. She has experience in aptitude, vocational, and personality testing with adults, in addition to individual and small group counseling. During internships and assistantships, Judith enjoyed working with undergraduate students in personal counseling, classroom teaching, tutoring, and as writing coach.

No longer working in weaving or wood and stone sculpture, Judith feeds the esthetic impulse with literature, music, animals, plants, and the New Mexico night sky.

*A leader takes people where they want to go.  
A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be.*

*Rosalyn Carter*

## *President's Message - League in Review*

**Thank you for all you do for the League** is often seen as the closing on League correspondence. This year, as I reviewed our activities, I thought these words were so appropriate. **Thank you for all you did for the League this year.** Here are some notable accomplishments:

Our Lunch with a Leader meetings were well attended, averaging 26 members at each meeting. Our most popular meetings were those with New Mexico legislators as guest speakers.

Two major studies about public education in Las Cruces and affordable housing in Doña Ana County were completed. These studies involved 14 members who diligently researched, wrote, and presented new information. The related unit meetings drew at least 15 members for each session and helped us reach consensus.

LWVUS studies on the role of government in education and when government should transfer functions, assets, or services to private sources came before us, and we sent our local consensus on to national to be considered along with the results of other local Leagues.

Voters in Las Cruces City welcomed our candidates' forum and *Voters Guide* for the 2011 municipal election. We were pleased to be invited by the city to have our candidates' forum televised and rebroadcast numerous times before the November municipal election on the city channel, Comcast Cable 20.

There were lots of opportunities to increase the League visibility. Members observed at School Board meetings, South Central Solid Waste Authority, and City and County Government meetings. Healthy U Expo sponsored by the Las Cruces Sun News and Lifestyle 2012 Expo sponsored by Southwest Seniors provided opportunities for voter registration and information seminars about our studies and the women's suffrage movement. These events helped us raise some money for our education fund. The League was invited to organize the Ad Hoc Committee on City Campaign Finance Reform in an effort to clarify and recommend changes to strengthen the reporting guidelines.

As your president, I represented the League by making presentations about the women's suffrage movement and the League of Women Voters at the NMSU School of Social Work graduate courses in policy, to the Business Women's Roundtable, and to the Press Women's Club. I attended several events associated with the celebration of 100 Years of New Mexico Statehood. For the fourth year, I attended the NMSU Model UN Team fund raising dinner.



The League's civic work in the community was recognized by the Las Cruces School Board when President Connie Phillips presented a Resolution to us in celebration of the League's 92<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary. Terry Miller, retired educator and community activist, and Charlotte Lipson, League member and community activist, generously organized an e-mail fund drive that raised over \$2,000 that was added to our Education Fund to pay for 2012 General Election *Voters Guide*.

Most of all I want to thank the Board members who have served faithfully and reached decisions that helped the League. Ruth Benjamins was appointed treasurer in September. With the help of Erika Graf-Webster and William Little, we implemented the Quicken accounting system. Susan Schmutge, former director of Membership, took care of membership matters during Roberta Gran's medical leave. Erika and her volunteers did an excellent job with voter services and the Las Cruces Municipal Election. Martha Duran was especially helpful with fund raising.

In closing, to all who helped, I say, "**Thank you for all you do for the League.**"

*Bonnie Burn*

**Once an organization  
loses its spirit of pioneering and  
rests on its early work,  
its progress stops.**

**Thomas J. Watson, Sr.**

**Fund Drive 2011-2012 - Bonnie Burn**

A serious effort to raise funds was undertaken in November 2011 when a small committee composed of Roberta Gran, Chair, Erika Graf-Webster, Martha Duran and Marjorie Burr came together to develop some plans. During December an appeal letter was sent to community individuals and businesses who supported us in the past. In January, Terry Miller and Charlotte Lipson initiated an e-mail appeal to their network of friends in an effort to raise money for our 2012 General Election *Voters Guide* that will cost us \$4,500 to print. It was heartwarming to learn how many people valued our *Voters Guide* by making a contribution.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Donations</b>	<b>Education Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>
Members	\$1,854	\$1,770	\$3,624
Community	\$670	\$1,797	\$2,467
Grand Total	\$2,524	\$3,567	\$6,091

On February 4, the League hosted a booth display at Healthy U, a one-day event held at the Las Cruces Convention Center that showcased non-profit organizations and home-based businesses. This was sponsored by the Las Cruces Sun-News. We gained visibility for the League and assisted 25 voters to register or make changes in their current registration information. Martha Duran organized our efforts for this event.

The League participated in the Southwest Senior Lifestyle 2012 Expo, sponsored by Southwest Senior publisher, Keith Whelpley. This two-day trade show was held on March 23 and 24. The League was the charitable benefactor, and through \$3 donations at the door had an opportunity to raise as much as \$2,000 that would help to defray printing costs of the 2012 General Election *Voters Guide*. At the Expo, the League not only hosted a booth where voter registration was available but also conducted a "straw poll" to determine the issues relevant to voters in the upcoming November general election. Presentations about our public education and affordable housing studies and the women's suffrage movement were made at information seminars. Erika Graf-Webster chaired this event, Marjorie Burr found staffing for our booth, and members helped with staffing and voter registration.

Kudos to the members of this new committee.

**Membership**

*Roberta Gran, Director, and Susan Schmutge*

The January 31, 2012, census taken by LWVUS through its online membership database showed GLC's count at 94 (80 Individual, 12 Second Household, and 2 Honorary members). Since 2007 when membership count was 77, we have experienced a steady increase of 12-17 members per year. Our highest count was 100 in 2010.

During 2011-2012, twelve members did not renew membership. Of that number, 10 had not been active in the League, some moved away, and the increase in dues played a role as well.

Additionally, six of our members who no longer wished to be active chose to become financial contributors or Friends of the League. In this category they are able to receive League's newsletters, and attend League meetings, if they choose, but they cannot vote on League business or during consensus. Their contributions are folded into our financial community support fund drives that are kept in our local treasury or deposited in our Education Fund. Per member payment, a fee that local Leagues are obliged to make in support of the state and national Leagues, is not assessed.

We are proud to claim two Honorary members who have held membership in the League for 50 years. At the 2011 Annual Meeting, Marnie Leverett was recognized for achieving this milestone and joins Helen Buggert who was recognized earlier. The Greater Las Cruces League was established in 1968. In 2018, just six years away, we expect to have several more members achieve Honorary status.

New Member Orientation was held once during 2011 on December 1. It was an evening meeting organized to accommodate those members who work. Attendance was good, and the meeting gave us an opportunity to get acquainted. It was generally felt that our orientations scheduled an hour before Lunch with a Leader meetings were more convenient for members.

If you are willing to volunteer for a committee or to help with a League activity, please contact the Membership Director, Roberta Gran, or any of the Board members (see listing in Membership

*(Continued on page 14)*

**MEMBERSHIP** *(Continued from page 13)*

Directory). You will be partnered with another League member who will act as a mentor, help you learn about the League and provide information that you may need.

Much gratitude is due for back-up coverage provided by Susan Schmutge, former Director of Membership, during Roberta's absences. Susan's expertise made the membership process seamless.

**The achievements of an organization  
are the results of the combined  
effort of each individual [member].**

**Vince Lombardi**

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### **Voter Services Report for May 2011 through April 2012**

*Erika Graf-Webster, Voter Services Director*

Odd-numbered years require less voter services effort, since they only involve local elections. This was the case for 2011. The only election cycle supported by the League's Voter Services activities was the Las Cruces municipal election.

Voter Services efforts were compressed because the municipal elections had a very tight timeframe – the candidate certification did not happen until October 4, with early voting starting on October 12, and election day occurring on November 5.

**Voter Registration:** Tom Schmutge managed voter registration efforts. Voter registrations were done during the summer and into September. Voter Registration occurred at the Healthy U and Southwest Seniors Expo.

**Voters Guide:** As in 2010, Dale Yeo again assumed leadership of the preparation of the *Voters Guide* for the municipal elections.

A four-page *Voters Guide* was planned and published for this election. Bonnie Burn and Erika Graf-Webster met with David McCollum of *The Bulletin* to negotiate the cost and schedule for the production of the *Guide*. Mr. McCollum was again very responsive to the needs of the League, and

offered the League a firm commitment not only for the 2011 *Guide*, but for the 2012 *Guide* as well, which is planned for 16 pages, and will involve significant effort. The *Guide* was published and distributed with the October 13 issue of *The Bulletin*.

**Candidates' Forum:** The League was delighted to receive an invitation by the City of Las Cruces to hold the Candidates Forum in City Council Chambers on October 5. All municipal candidates – mayoral, councilors and municipal judge – were invited and all attended. The forum was televised live, and rebroadcast repeatedly on Las Cruces' CCTV station, Comcast Cable Ch 20. The forum effort was led by Erika Graf-Webster, and its acknowledged success was due to a wonderful group of volunteers, including Bonnie Burn (who moderated), Bob Burn, Gwen Hanson, Roberta Gran, Fran Clark, Sue Cain, Martha Duran, Judy McGuire, Clifford Pelton, Dale Yeo, as well as two high-school seniors who collected questions from the audience.

**Legislative Breakfast:** Based on input from legislators who attended the 2010 Breakfast, this Breakfast was scheduled for January 14, 2012 at the Good Samaritan Social Center. However, because this Saturday immediately preceded the opening of the New Mexico Legislative Session on Tuesday, January 17, most of the Legislators already had obligations in Santa Fe. Only Representative Joseph Cervantes was able to attend. He provided a great deal of insight about the state's legislative process – what bills could be considered, how bills were introduced, and how they proceeded through the process of consideration for approval, rejection or simply becoming tabled. Mr. Lynn Ellins, Doña Ana County Clerk, also attended this breakfast, and provided a detailed explanation of the new voting centers that would be used in future elections.

**Summary:** Voter Registration efforts during this past year provided successful support to the municipal elections. In the process, however, the funds in the Education coffers of the League were almost entirely depleted. Since next year's activities will require about \$5,000 to accomplish, Voter Services has joined the ad hoc Fundraising Committee in an intense effort to raise the money needed for the coming year.

## Affordable Housing Committee Report

*Vicki Simons and Christina Little, Co-Chairs*

The Affordable Housing Committee has completed a two year study. We have read multiple documents; conducted eleven interviews; were informed by a tour of affordable housing; presented a general meeting featuring David Dollahon from the City of Las Cruces, Rose Garcia from Tierra del Sol, and Thomas Hassell from the Housing Authority; and then conducted two unit meetings where we reviewed our findings with League members and reached member agreement on a new position. Along with the Education Committee, we participated in the Senior Expo.

In this next year, we will concentrate on educating the larger community about affordable housing and looking for ways in which we can advocate on its behalf. We are not asking for a continuation of the study but do hope to move into Action mode.

The members of the committee are as follows: Jane Carter, Fran Clark, Marnie Leverett, Christina Little, Charlotte McCarthy, Paula Neilson, Vicki Simons, and Aletta Wilson.

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## Education Committee Report

*Jane Asche and Sue Cain, Co-Chairs*

At the April 2010 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces (LWVGLC), members were reminded of the fact that the education position statement of the League had not been revised since 1999. Based on this fact and awareness of increasing national concern about the state of public education, a new education study was approved by members at the Annual Meeting. This led to a comprehensive study of the local public education system, grades K-12.

The study process occurred between April 2010 and September 2011 and included four components.

- The first component consisted of an extensive series of interviews with select members of the NMSU College of Education, Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) Administration, LCPS Board of Education, high school student government leadership, LCPS Citizen Advisory Council, National Education Association local leadership

as well as the District 7 NM Public Education Commissioner, Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce CEO, Hispano Chamber of Commerce Director and chair of their education committee.

- A second component was a literature search by members of the education study committee that resulted in four research papers focused on New Mexico common core curriculum standards, charter schools, standardized testing and teacher performance as well as two book reviews of recent seminal works by renowned education historian, Diane Ravitch, and widely respected education researcher, Linda Darling Hammond.
- The third component of the study consisted of three unit meetings that were conducted to educate League members on study findings relevant to current education issues.
- The final component was the engagement of League members in a consensus process to reach agreement about our position on these issues as an organization.

This process resulted in the development of a new education position statement by the committee (see p. 5), that has been approved by the LWVGLC Board of Directors, and will be submitted for approval by the membership at the April 2012 Annual Meeting. The new education position statement will be used as a guide for public advocacy on education issues at the state and local levels by the League.

Documentation of all interviews, research papers, book reviews, materials from the unit meetings and the new position statement are posted on the League website for members and the public to review ([www.lwvg.org](http://www.lwvg.org))

*If a man empties his purse  
into his head, no man can take it  
away from him.*

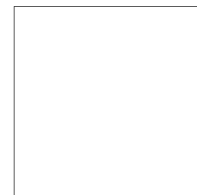
*An investment in knowledge  
always pays the best interest.*

*Benjamin Franklin*



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Web Site: www.lwvglc.org



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**FIRST CLASS**

**PLEASE BRING THIS VOTER AND THE  
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY  
WITH YOU  
TO THIS MEETING**



*CALENDAR*

April 4 (Wednesday) - **Deadline for Reservations for Annual Meeting.** RSVP Marjorie Burr, 522-2528 or email: burrmmb@aol.com.

April 14 (Saturday) - 9:00 a.m. - **ANNUAL MEETING,** Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. **BREAKFAST** is \$10. **Reservations required.**

April 15 (Sunday) - Noon - **Deadline for The VOTER,** May issue.

**MARK Your Calendar**

May 12 - LWVNM Council, Albuquerque  
(Details in La Palabra, Summer 2012 issue)  
 June 8-12 - LWVUS Convention, Washington DC  
(Details: www.lwv.org)

*COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS*

*With Our Gratitude*

- John Ameriks, M.D.
- Biad Chile Ltd. Co.
- Joseph P. Camunez, DDS
- Donald and Winifred Dresp
- Adrian and Jackie Edwards
- Edward Jones - Connie Lee
- First New Mexico Bank
- Nancy & Ken Hall
- Patricia Kratz
- Lilley Law Offices
- Louise P. Lockhart
- Barbara Myers
- Francisco Mario Ortiz Law Firm
- Wanda Skowlund
- La June Smith
- Marie Sutter-Sinden
- Tom Tate
- Zia Engineering & Environmental Consultants

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.