

LWV

the VOTER

*League of Women Voters of
Greater Las Cruces*

February 2018

Volume 49

Issue 9

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LUNCH: AS LEADERS we plan, study, act

Annual Program Planning for Study and Action

Monday, February 12, 2018, 10:30-1:00

Good Samaritan Conference Room

3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces

The Greater Las Cruces League will develop program issues for study and action at the February Luncheon Meeting. This is an annual event for all local Leagues. The purpose of program planning is to gather League members to review current local League positions, discuss issues of common interest that can be resolved by local government, and propose a program that will be presented for adoption by members at the Annual Meeting in April. Identified issues will determine both advocacy and education efforts for the upcoming year. Recommendations will be presented to the LWVGLC Board of Directors at the March 1, 2018 meeting for approval.

Recommendations are considered using three criteria: 1) Is member interest widespread? 2) Is this a timely issue? 3) Is government action the most effective way to address the problem? Program recommendations, at both the local and national levels, require a brief statement of 300 words or less, to describe the scope of the study. Please be mindful of the resources that would be needed, both money and volunteer time.

All members are invited to participate in this very important activity. Please RSVP Christy Sorg by February 5, 2018, christysorg630@gmail.com.

PROGRAM PLANNING AGENDA

MORNING

1. Status review and future plans of existing studies and committees
 - a. Youth Engagement
 - b. Affordable Housing
 - c. Voter Services
 - d. 18 -24 Year-olds Voter Participation Study
 - e. 50th Anniversary Committee
2. Recommendations for Additional Committees

3. Recommendations for New Studies
4. Proposed Community Engagement Activities for 2018

AFTER LUNCH

1. Recommendations for Review/Revision of Existing Positions
2. Recommendations for NM Program
3. Recommendations for US Program

President's Message

Greetings,



I attended the state board meeting on the 20th. Much talk about the upcoming legislative session, program planning for the LWVUS convention, as well as the state program.

Speaking of Program Planning, put **February 12th** on your calendar. This is a very important meeting where we decide on what our focus should be for the upcoming year. The LWVUS Board recommends that Program 2018-2020 continue the Campaign for Making Democracy Work. Leagues are encouraged to work on electoral issues such as voting rights, improving elections, campaign finance/money in politics, and redistricting. For information on this campaign go to www.lwv.org. Besides discussing the US Board recommendations, we will also discuss other priorities we might have including recommendations for new studies and community engagement activities. Please come. Like a democracy, every voice counts, and it works best when everyone participates.

We have rescheduled the Dinner with a Speaker on Nuclear Waste for **March 12th**. Karen Douglas, the leader of the state study will be there to present. January's Voter has a great article about the study and her bio so if you haven't had a chance to read it I encourage you to do so. Karen is from the LWVCNM chapter and will be traveling from ABQ. Let's show our support by coming to listen to her presentation.

I want to congratulate the 50th Anniversary Committee on an interesting and successful Citizen's Forum on Electoral Issues. Thanks to Win Jacobs for organizing the event and to

Roberta, Gail, and Erika for their help at the forum, and to all of you who were able to come. Also thanks to David and Barbara for writing letters to the editor. Also, thank you to Dale Yeo and Wendi Miller-Tomlinson for a successful forum held on Jan. 31st on the proposed Bond Issue. The election is scheduled for Feb. 6th so please vote! The study committee on Impediments to Voter Participation for 18-24 year old age group is busy getting the survey up and running. They are in the process of finding 1 or 2 interns who will help distribute the survey and compile the data. They will also help us with ideas for reaching young voters via social media.

Finally, **FACEBOOK**. **I need help. Please like our page** if you have a FB account (leaguewomenvotersgreaterlascrucesnm) and encourage all your relatives and friends to like our page as well. If you are an avid FB user and would like to help with posts, please let me know. PLEASE! I'm desperate! See you on the 12th!

Warmly,
Kim Sorensen, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 25	2 – 4 p.m. Book Club - <i>Unbelievable: My Front-Row Seat to the Craziest Campaign in American History</i> by Katy Tur at the home of Erika Graf-Webster (575-521-0600)
January 31 – February 1	10 a.m. League Days in Santa Fe, Round House
February 6	VOTE School Bond Election
February 12	LWVGLC Program Planning
February 12	KRWG Panel Discussion to be taped - Building Civic Engagement Panelists - Scott Krahling and Kim Sorensen - Airing time TBA
February 22	2 – 4 p.m. Book Club - <i>Endurance: A Year in Space, A Lifetime of Discovery</i> by Scott Kelly at the home of Dale Yeo 2:00-4:00 p.m. (575-405-7530)
February TBA	Forum – Mesilla Mayoral Candidates at Mesilla Community Center
March 12	5 p.m. – Dinner with a Leader – Karen Douglas, LWVNM Nuclear Waste Storage Committee Chair – Good Samaritans
April 14	9 a.m. LWVGLC Annual Meeting – Good Samaritans

Vital Information for Members: PLEASE NOTE

- Change of Address for the League can be found on Page 8
- Form for claiming expenses can be found on Page 9
- Directory additions and corrections can be found on Page 11
- Addendum: Guidance for Program Planning can be found on Page 12



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! SAVE THE DATES!

May 5, Saturday Reunion Picnic Lunch at Pioneer Women's Park

All current and former members of our local League will be invited from far and wide
Tree planting to commemorate our anniversary
Box lunches.
Come to get acquainted and/or reminisce.
Time: 10:00 to 2:00 Cost: \$15 per person--tentative

July 3 to August 25 Exhibit at Branigan Cultural Center

Exhibit is being put together in consultation with
CLC Museums Curator Joy Miller.
Display on boards designed and built under the direction of Lizz Taylor.
Several interactive projects are planned, e.g. registration and mock voting.
We will need volunteer docents for the exhibit.

Wednesday, July 18, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**Public forum: *Mental Health In Dona
Ana County* (details TBA)**

Friday, August 24, 6:00 p.m. Screening of a feature -length movie on a relevant topic (details TBA)

Refreshments will be served in Branigan Cultural Center courtyard

INVITATION TO JOIN BOOK CLUB

Erika Graf-Webster, Book Club Lead [575-521-0600](tel:575-521-0600)

You are invited to join our Book Club! We welcome all of you to participate in this activity! We started the LWVGLC Book Club in late 2013, and held our first meeting in January 2014 - yes, our next meeting in January is our FOURTH ANNIVERSARY! Some of you who have joined the League in recent years may not even know about the Book Club, so here is a short description.

- **Purpose:** Our aim is to become more knowledgeable and informed about current events in the field of government and politics. This includes reading books about policy, politics, people in politics, governmental actions and history. We select and read non-fiction books on these topics. Here is a sample of the books we have read:
 - THE PENTAGON'S BRAIN: An Uncensored History of DARPA, America's Top-Secret Military Research Agency (a truly scary book!)
 - THE BLACK PRESIDENCY: Barack Obama and the Politics of Race in America
 - NOTORIOUS RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg
 - HERETIC: Why Islam Needs a Reformation Now (another really scary book)
 - THE PRESIDENT'S BOOK OF SECRETS: The Untold Story of Intelligence Briefings to America's Presidents from Kennedy to Obama
 - MY BELOVED WORLD (Sonia Sotomayor)
 - DEMOCRACY FOR REALISTS: Why Elections Do Not Produce Responsive Government (really helped in understanding the 2016 election)
 - BORN A CRIME: Stories from a South African Childhood (Trevor Noah)
 - THIS FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT ([Elizabeth Warren](#))
- **How It Works:** We keep a running list of candidate books to read. Any member can suggest a book for the list, and the book club members reach consensus on whether the book is added. At each club meeting, we select books for the next three months. Any book that is on the Candidate Book List for 6 months but has not been selected for reading is automatically dropped off the list.
- **The Meetings:** Meetings are on the 4th Thursday of each month, at 2 pm. Members volunteer to host meetings in their homes. Beverages and small snacks (fruit, cookies) are typically served. The person who initially recommended the book leads the discussion. Inevitably, the later half or third of the meeting ends up in a discussion of current politics. Yes, a large amount of venting takes place, but there is also a lot of laughter. It is really remarkable how much these discussions lift our spirits and everybody goes home feeling better.

So come and join us! The next meeting is at Erika's house, on January 25. The book being discussed is *Unbelievable: My Front-Row Seat to the Craziest Campaign in American History* by Katy Tur (of MSNBC). Contact Erika at grafwebster@icloud.com if you plan to come - you will be welcomed.

REMEMBERING JIM LEVERETT

By Win Jacobs

James R. Leverett, Jr. died January 19, just three months shy of 91 illustrious years. The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces will miss him, as will the City of Las Cruces and the community of Good Samaritan Village.

When Jim and Marnie settled in Las Cruces in 1992, after a few years of rv-ing around the southwest, Jim began immediately to devote his engineer's brain and his big heart to the task of instilling computer literacy in LWVGLC. He was our first Webmaster, and tutored electronic greenhorns among us. To assist the Board of Elections, he set up an auxiliary call center in his apartment over at least two election cycles: citizens could (and did) call in for voting information and location. He did his best to stir concern over the planned phasing out of paper ballots.

Another hallmark of Jim's community service was years of service on Search and Rescue; in fact the Leveretts delayed their move to Good Sam until a 3rd-floor apartment was available, so his CB antenna on his balcony rail would not irritate neighbors.

Jim chaired the Las Cruces Capital Improvement Committee for several years, not only presiding over appeals cases but also devoting considerable energy to persuading the appointing mayor to abide by the rule of only one developer on the Committee.

When in later years ill health began to slow him down, he turned to photography. With son Tom's assistance, many of the photos shot from his balcony window turned into yearly calendars and wall art inside and outside the Good Sam apartment.

LWVGLC honors Jim's memory for his community service and for his role as lifetime member Marnie's third arm: "Jimmy, we need..." was all it took for Jim to jump into the breach, with a smile.

OBSERVERS POSTS

Las Cruces, NM City Council, January 2, 2018

by Mary Ellen Knapp

Regular Meeting

Six Councilors present – Mayor absent. Meeting was conducted by Mayor pro tem Gill Sorg

Items of particular interest were:

APPROVED – Resolution to adjust City's FY 2018 budget to reflect: (1) Certoplast North America, Inc.'s voluntary termination of its project participation agreement with the City to participate in the Local Economic Development Act program, and (2) the return of the \$150,000

they had received in city and state funds. No termination penalties are involved when funds are returned. (6 ayes, 1 absent)

APPROVED – Amend City's adopted FY 2018 Budget Capital Improvement Plan to include \$750,000 for Economic Development projects. Some of the projects considered are signs and informational Kiosks at the downtown Plaza de Las Cruces, including moveable shading, possibly restrooms, as well as installation of "Welcome to Las Cruces" signs placed at entrances to the city. Visuals of the various projects will be brought back to the Council when completed. (6 ayes, 1 absent)

Las Cruces NM City Council, December 4, 2017

By Johnnie R. Aldrich

Regular Meeting (Old, but Important for Archives) All Councilors and Mayor were present (Eakman, telephone)

Items of Particular Interest:

As part of the Opening Ceremonies, the Council presented a Proclamation, read by Mayor Pro-Tem Gill Sorg, League member, expressing gratitude to LWVGLC for "sustained commitment to citizen engagement in the betterment of our city's well-being" and declaring 2018 as The Year of The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces. Approximately 30 members of the League, including Councilor Yvonne Flores, were present to receive the Proclamation.

In the Public Participation of this lengthy meeting, 8 speakers made the Council's aware of items in need of attention including the Triage Center to be opened in March (the building is, in its present state, totally inadequate to meet its intended use for both patients and staff). Another speaker addressed unnecessary El Paso Electric power distribution projects like the planned Talavera Substation.

Deming City Council

Observer: David Neal

January 11, 2018

TYPE OF MEETING Regular
MEMBERS PRESENT Four of five

Several minor Resolutions and Proclamations were passed as a block by voice vote. Two more important Resolutions dealt with adopting required community development block grant certifications and commitments. Another related to an intergovernmental loan agreement with the New Mexico Dept. of Transportation.

After approval of said resolutions and proclamations Council went into a closed-door session to discuss the sale or disposition of city-owned property in the Peru Mill Industrial Park.

JANUARY LWVGLC BOARD MINUTES

January 4, 2018

Kim Sorenson called meeting to order at 10 AM at the Branigan Library. Those in attendance were: Erika Graf-Webster, Win Jacobs, William Little, Christine Sorg, Connie Lee, Sue Lashley and Kim. Dale Yeo joined a bit later.

William announced that he would get a new mailing address for the League, as the one currently in use is no longer available. Finance report was filed for Review. Voter services report was to remind us about LCPS Bond issue to be voted on February 6. Early voting begins in a week. Chris Sorg will register voters at the Women's March to be held January 21.

New members are: Katherine Nicodemas, Diane Lilly, Christine Eber and Georgia Ecker. Motion was made and seconded that if the League offers a scholarship to others, that the local will be responsible for PMP if on our roll as of 12/31 of each year.

50th Anniversary Report Win Jacobs reported on the Public Forum to be held at Temple Beth El slated for January 30, 2018. It will be a panel discussion with panelist Scott Krahling, Dona Ana County Clerk, Viki Harrison, NM Common Cause and Randy Harris of Great Conversations. Topics may include campaign finance, gerrymandering, voter outreach, challenges of language barriers, limitations on involvement of homeless and near-homeless people, as well as college students. There will be questions from the audience. This is our first activity planned by the committee.

We received a letter from NM Poverty Law asking for our participation in a forum. We have declined as it was not in our purview as a League.

Youth Engagement Committee Chair Erika Graf-Webster gave a report that outlines many of their activities planned and in motion. They have offered an intern position to one woman from NMSU Government department graduate school and a possible interview with a second person. There are some obstacles being addressed by Erika and her committee. There is also a possibility of a student from LCPS Excel program to work within this framework. An NMSU professor has constructed a survey to evaluate voting habits of NMSU students. A meeting was held with Ted Conner of the Government department and there may be assistance with completion of survey. A Civic engagement project has been designed with LCLWV and LCPS with Dr. Robert Lorenzo as chair. Members are also Sarah Hall and Wendy Miller Tomlinson. There will be representation from each level. Scott Krahling has offered meeting space at the County building.

Our next general meeting will be a Program Planning Meeting. There are suggestions on the national website that the board decided to use.

The board decided that meetings held on the second Tuesday must have an RSVP by the first Sunday of the month. Good Sam is asking for a complete count earlier now. There will be a reminder email on the fourth Saturday of the month.

Other upcoming items:

- May Dinner with a Leader will be hosting Aggies Unlimited.
- January 26th Kim will be interviewed on KTAL at 8 AM.
- February 1 will be ^{League} day at the Round House with a reception the evening prior.
- February 12 will be a planning meeting at lunch. Suggestions of issues are on the national website.
- February 14 will be a Civic Engagement Forum at KRWG TV hosted by Fred Martino with Kim representing our league and Scott Krahling of the county.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Lee

FEBRUARY 2018 VOTER

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

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www.lwvglc.org

President – Kim Sorenson

Vice-President, Events & Speakers –

Christine Sorg

Secretary – Connie Lee

Treasurer – William Little

Voter Services – Vicki Simons

and Dale Yeo

Membership Director – Sue Lashley

Nominating Committee – Jane Asche

Editor, VOTER – Bonnie Votaw

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League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
 P.O. Box 8322
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A nonpartisan political 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

REPORTING FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES

Event Title/Date: _____

Today's Date: _____

I incurred the following expenses. Receipts are attached.

Date	Expense Description	Amount	Budget Item	Subtotal
TOTAL				

- I wish to contribute this amount to LWV of Greater Las Cruces.
Name: _____
- I wish to be reimbursed this amount. Please make check payable to:

 Print name as it should appear on check

 Address

 City/State/Zip

 Telephone No.

For Treasurer's Use

Date Recorded as In-Kind Expense: _____

Date Reimbursed: _____

Check #: _____

UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Add these NEW MEMBERS to your list!

by Sue Lashley

Megann Cretsinger (student) [3849 Mondale Loop](#) [LC NM 88005](#) 214 698
9612 meganncakes@gmail.com

Christine Eber [1825 Myrtle Ave.](#) [LC NM 88001](#) 575 621 5999 ceber@nmsu.edu

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League Day, Legislature 2018 **League of Women Voters of New Mexico** **League Day at the Legislature 2018** **January 31 and February 1**

Legislative Reception, Wednesday, January 31, 5:30-7:30
PM Garrett's Desert Inn, [311 Old Santa Fe Trail](#)

Tax Reform Proposals in the 2018 Session
Richard Anklam, President/ED, New Mexico Tax Research Institute,
Former Assistant Sec./Dir. of Tax Policy for New Mexico Taxation and Revenue

League Day, Thursday, February 1, 10:15 AM to Noon
Morgan Hall, New Mexico Land Office, 310 Old SF Trail

Messaging for the Ethics Commission State Ballot
& what we want in 2019 enabling legislation
Viki Harrison, Executive Director, Common Cause - New Mexico

League Supported Revenue Generators in the 2018 Session
Bill Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor/Government Relations, NM Voices for Children

ADDENDUM: USING “STUDY” AS AN ENGAGEMENT/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TOOL

From LWVUS

April 2013 Guidance on Opportunities

APPRECIATIVE ICEBREAKER Focusing on an “Issue with Legs”

- What does the term “issue with legs” mean to you?
 - What are the characteristics of an issue that has “legs”?
 - How do these “legs” relate to organizational development?
 - In your League experience, how successful is League in pursuing “issues with legs”?
 - What is the role of the larger community in defining these issues?
 - Who defines these issues in your League?

GUIDANCE

When members are asked about what they value most about League, they often respond that it is the opportunities to learn. One of our trademark ways of learning in League is through the study process. Like so much of our work, studies offer great opportunities for visibility, outreach and leadership development. This month’s guidance will focus on using a local study as a vehicle for organizational development.

Before looking at any specifics, there are a couple of “myths” that should be debunked.

- Leagues *cannot do any educational work on an issue unless they have a position*. This is false. If there is a “hot” breaking issue in the community about which the League does not have a position, then the League can certainly facilitate a dialogue or hold a town hall meeting about the issue. We can don our “trusted convener” hat and help the community to better understand what might be at stake. With that said, Leagues should try to focus on their self-identified priority issues when possible. Presumably, they were made priorities for a reason!
- Leagues *can only use positions adopted at that level of League*. This too is false. Leagues can use state and national positions to move forward with action in their community as long as there is member understanding and agreement of the issue and the position. For example, LWVUS has a position on the gun control/safety. This issue does not have to be independently studied by each state.

The Key Steps of the Study Process

It is important to remember that the study process is a *cooperative effort* between the local League leadership team and the study committee. It is the leadership team's

responsibility to monitor the entire process to ensure that the membership is able to come to consensus in an unbiased and nonpartisan atmosphere.

1. What to study?

Members chose an issue to study at the Program Planning meeting. Optimally, the members at the meeting should write the Focus and Scope. (Focus is the statement of the main topic for study and Scope explains the extent and limits of the study.) The League board/leadership team chooses the recommended program items for the annual meeting. (If the Focus and Scope have not already been written then they should write it for the annual meeting presentation.) The members at annual meeting adopt the local program, including any studies.

Ideally,

- Is this an issue of pressing community concern?
- Is this an area of member interest?
- Does this build on League strengths?
- Is there likelihood for action/visibility/success?
- How could it help to build our League?
- What (if anything) might we give up to focus on the study?

2. Who does the work?

The board/leadership team finds a local study chairperson. The board/leadership team and the local study chairperson recruit members for the study committee and set the date for consensus meeting. The local study chairperson with the study committee sets up the timeline, organizes and gathers research information, shares issue information with the members, maintains an unbiased approach to the study, and prepares for the consensus meeting presentation.

The critical question that can be asked at this phase is *Who else?* The study is advanced after careful consideration of the following questions:

- Who else can serve on the committee (from within or outside the League)?
- Who else can we engage (community organizations, experts, institutions) as we work on the study to not only learn but showcase League?
- Who else can we mentor during this process?

3. What's in it for ME?

Information. Fun. Personal growth. Camaraderie. This is the phase where members (and others in the community depending on how and where information is presented and shared) get to learn about the issue from the study committee through articles in bulletin, information forums, tours and other means.

This phase of the study process requires us to think about a different question: *How else?*

- How else can we engage our members?
- How else can we engage the public, other organizations and the media?

- How else do we share all the great learning (and tremendous work) that has gone into creating the study materials?
- How else do we showcase the learning opportunities in League?
- How else do we show how this issue relates to the concerns in our community?
- How are opinions heard?

The study committee writes the consensus questions and the board approves the questions, which are sent to the members at least two weeks before the consensus meeting. The study committee develops an outline for the consensus meeting, which will include the highlights of their issue research. A discussion leader oversees the consensus meeting to ensure there is constructive consensus discussion using the consensus questions. A recorder keeps accurate notes of the consensus meeting discussion. There is a wrap up meeting for formulation of the position statement by the study committee using the consensus reached by the members.

While process is important, it is not rigid.

- What ways are there to gather opinions outside of the in-person meeting, such as through an online survey or via social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter?
- What are the leadership development opportunities that could be offered to emerging leaders?
- How can new technology be employed at the meeting to help better understand the opinions of those gathered?
- In what new and dynamic ways can the research be presented?
- How do we have an impact?

The board/leadership team decides if consensus was reached by the members at the consensus meeting, reviews and approves the position statement, and adopts the position. The board may take action on the position immediately after they adopt it as a new local position. The members reaffirm all local positions at each annual meeting.

This is the time to celebrate! The League has a new position on an issue of importance to the community!

- How can we let the community know? The media? Coalition partners or allied groups?
- How do we appreciate the work of the study committee?
- What new leaders emerged during this process and how do we keep them engaged? How do we build on our strengths and assets?
- And, most importantly, how do we make an impact with this new position?