

the VOTER

February 2019
Volume 50, Issue 8

LWV LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
of Greater Las Cruces

INSIDE

Upcoming Events	2	Who's Who	5
Televised Forums	3	Advocacy Training	6
50 th Anniversary	4	Book Club	7
Observer Reports	5	Treasurer Report	9

President's February Message

Dear Members,
Get your calendar ready for February because GLC is busy this month!

League Day Feb. 6 & 7. LWVNM Reception will be Feb. 6 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Rio Chama Steak House, 414 Old Santa Fe Trail. League Day is Feb. 7 from 10:30 a.m.-noon. I'm excited for this event. There will be almost ten of us from GLC attending. I will send our league priority sheet in the hopes you have an opportunity to talk to some of our legislators.



Kim Sorensen

The annual **Program Planning Meeting will be Feb. 11 from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** at Good Samaritans. Please come and help us determine our program for next year.

We have two important **forums** coming up that will be televised on KRWG-TV. Education and Health Care, as you remember, were identified as our top two legislative priorities for the Las Cruces League in addition to the five LWVNM priorities. A forum on Education will be taped **Feb. 12 at 1:00 p.m. in the KRWG-TV taping room.** Jane Asche, League panelist, is organizing this forum. Vicki Simons is taking the lead on the Access to Affordable Health Care forum, which will be taped on **Feb. 19 at 1:00 p.m.** It is important to have league members in the audience to ask questions so please try to attend both forums. Thanks to Fred Martino, director of KRWG-TV and League member, for collaborating with us. Both forums will be aired three times, TBA.

Finally, the most IMPORTANT event coming up is the **50th Anniversary Tea from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Feb. 23 at the Double Eagle Restaurant.** This is the culmination of

Annual Program Planning for Study and Action

Our February 11th meeting, starting at 10:30 a.m. and continuing through lunch until 1:00 p.m., is our program planning meeting, an annual event for all local leagues. At this meeting (Good Sam's) LWVGLC members propose and discuss issues for study and action. We will review current local League positions, discuss issues of common interest that can be resolved by local government, and propose a program of action.

This proposed program will be presented to the LWVGLC Board of Directors at the March 7 meeting for approval and then to the members for adoption at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 13, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at Sunset Grill, 1274 Golf Club Rd.

These identified issues will determine both advocacy and education efforts for the upcoming year. Recommendations are considered by three criteria: 1) Is there widespread member interest? 2) Is this a timely issue? 3) Is government action the most effective way to address the problem?

Please bring your Membership Directory to this meeting. LWVGLC Position Statements as of April 2018 are listed on the last eight pages of the booklet. Before the planning meeting, you may want to review these local positions as well as [LWVNM state positions](#) to look for important issues where our positions need updating or on which we have no position. Or you may notice local positions that need to be reworded. For example, an ad hoc group will present for discussion at this February 11 meeting a

— continued page 2

— continued page 2

President's Message (cont. from p. 1)

an entire year of activities commemorating 50 years of being a chapter. Maggie Toulouse Oliver has accepted our invitation to speak. Please come and help us celebrate 50 years of service to our community.

And finally, GLC participated in the Women's Rally on Jan. 19, handing out literature about the league and registering voters. A good start to the New Year!

See you all Soon!!!!

Kim Sorensen, President

SAVE THE DATE

Feb. 11, 2019
Annual Program Planning Meeting
10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Good Samaritan

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Feb. 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m., LWVNM League Day Reception, Rio Chama Steak House, 414 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe

Feb. 7: 10:30 a.m. – noon., League Day at the Legislature, State Land Office, Santa Fe

Feb. 8: 10:00 a.m.-noon, LWVGLC Board Meeting, Branigan Library Board Room

Feb. 9: 2:30-4:30 p.m., Advocacy Training, Branigan Library

Feb. 11: 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., GLC Program Planning Meeting, Good Samaritan Activity Room

Feb. 12: 1:00 p.m. Education Forum Taping, KRWG-TV, Milton Hall

Feb. 19, 1:00 p.m. Health Care Forum Taping, KRWG-TV, Milton Hall

Feb. 23: 2:00-4:00 p.m., GLC 50th Anniversary High Tea, Double Eagle de Mesilla

MARCH

March 7: 10:00-noon, LWVGLC Board Meeting, Branigan Library Board Room

Annual Program Planning (cont. from p. 1)

proposed minor revision of LWVGLC's Election Procedures positions to accord with recent changes in New Mexico law and to incorporate some state positions.

Any study recommendation developed at the February 11 planning meeting requires interested members to write a brief statement of 300 words or less describing the scope of the study. Proposals for statewide studies must be presented at the LWVNM Board meeting March 30, and proposals for local studies (after discussion at the LWVGLC March 7 Board meeting) will be submitted for final approval by members at our April 13 Annual Meeting. In developing an idea for a study, please be mindful of the resources that would be needed, in both money and volunteer time. If your issue applies to the entire state, [click here to see "How to Conduct a State Study" authored by LWVNM.](#)

All members are invited to participate in this very important activity. Bring your experiences and ideas!

Best,
Cindy Murrell, VP

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER LAS CRUCES BOARD:

Kim Sorenson – President

Cindy Murrell – Vice President, Events & Speakers

Ashley Beyer – Secretary

William Little – Treasurer

Vicki Simons & Dale Yeo – Voter Services

MaryEllen Kebbel & Caprice Benoit – Membership Co-Directors

Erika Graf-Webster – Youth Engagement Director

Jane Asche & Judith LaPointe – Nominating Committee

Bonnie Votaw & Jo Galván Nash – Editors, the Voter

P.O. Box 15142 • Las Cruces, NM 88004
575.524.VOTE (8683)

www.lwvglc.org

LWVGLC and KRWG-TV Present New Mexico Legislative Issues

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces and KRWG-TV are presenting two, one-hour forums in February addressing issues which will be of primary interest to New Mexicans in the 2019 legislative session. **The first forum will be on education legislation and the second on health care bills.**

It is important to get the message out to our members to participate. Taping the forum is much livelier when there is a good-sized audience. You are urged to come to the taping and add your dynamic to the show.

This is where League members, friends, and NMSU faculty and students are needed to play an important role in coming to the microphone and asking good questions. It is the hope of KRWG and the League that seeing the forum broadcast will inspire many citizens to contact their senators and representatives during the legislative session to pass wise policies to create a brighter future for our children in New Mexico. Please come and bring your good questions to contribute to making this an inspiring event.

The Education Forum

The Education Forum that will be taped on Tuesday, Feb. 12 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the KRWG-TV studio in Milton Hall on the NMSU campus. It will be aired at three different times during the following weekend.

The focus will be on three topics: 1) early childhood education, 2) the Yazzie/Martinez vs the State of New Mexico court ruling, and 3) the critical shortage of teachers in New Mexico. Fred Martino of KRWG-TV will be the facilitator of the forum starting with one or two questions for each of three panel members and then will open up the discussion to participants in the audience who will be asked to come to the microphone and pose their questions to the panel members. Panelists will be:

Dr. Betsy Cahill, College of Education, NMSU; **Mary Parr Sanchez**, LCPS Community School Liaison, NEA-NM Vice President; and **Dr. Jane Asche**, Retired Educator and Author on Community-School Partnerships, representing LWVGLC.

Health Care Forum

The Health Care Forum will be taped on Tuesday, Feb. 19 at the KRWG-TV studio on NMSU campus in Milton Hall at 1:00 p.m. Please come and submit questions. The program will be presented Thursday night, Feb. 21 at 7:00 p.m. on KRWG with several re-broadcasts the following weekend.

The Health Care Forum will consist of a panel discussion with three leading participants in the statewide discussion: **Dr. Davena Norris**, Pharm, D from the Health Security for New Mexicans campaign; **Abuko Estrada**, Supervising Attorney for Healthcare from the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, which is backing the Medicaid buy-in plan; and **Vicki Simons**, LWV/GLC. The LWV has endorsed the Health Security for New Mexicans legislation. Please try to attend the taping and bring your questions.



The 50th Anniversary Story

It was in mid-January 1969 when the official letter arrived that changed our status from provisional to regular League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces. It had been a busy year. The group of about a dozen women which had gathered in the fall of 1967 with the intent of organizing a local League in the town had grown to more than 80 members.

We had met all the requirements that the organization set for a local League. We had a board that met regularly. We had a membership that participated in regular meetings and studied items that issues on all governmental levels. In

particular, we studied and acted on the issue of calling a New Mexico Constitutional Convention to re-write the state constitution. After the state legislature approved

the call, Constitutional Convention members were to be elected from all counties in New Mexico. So, we were immediately immersed in voter services—holding candidates’ meetings and publishing voters’ guides about the candidates. Then the provisional League participated in the LWV statewide consensus process to determine the constitutional changes that the League would support in the new document being drafted.

The local program item for the provisional League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces was an in-depth study of the structures and functions of local government. Research involved interviews of local government officials. Findings were shared with members via unit meetings—small group discussions. This process was time-consuming, but it resulted in the entire League memberships’ being well acquainted with the workings of local government. It grounded our local reputation for knowing what we were talking about.

The provisional League also tended to the organization-keeping duties: recruiting members, collecting dues, communicating with our membership and the community. A requirement was a finance drive to show that we had community support. We fulfilled this requirement.

Near the end of 1968, we submitted our application for regular Local League status to the League of Women Voters of New Mexico, along with a copy of our know-your-town booklet, “Las Cruces.” The state League readily approved our request and forwarded it to the national board. And so, the letter in early 1969 verified what we already knew—that the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces was a healthy, dynamic, growing organization that was already making a difference in our community and had attracted many hard-working, thinking, active women to tis membership.



Fifty years is a good point in our history to stop and take stock of how far we have come. The 50th Anniversary committee decided to hold a celebration year that spanned the time we had

spent as a provisional League. Our activities included a series of public forums on topics on which LWVGLC had long-standing positions: the electoral process, mental health services, and education. We planned a picnic and planted a tree in Pioneer Women’s Park. We showed a movie about an event that showcased local and state politics of about a century ago. We gathered and published the history of our 50-year existence. Fifty years ago, the culmination of our year of hard work was a “coffee” held on February 23, 1969. It was the first meeting we had had that wasn’t a working meeting—just a celebration. And so, the committee decided that a fitting conclusion to our year of activities would be a “tea.”

On Saturday, February 23, 2019, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., our members and friends will gather at the Double Eagle Restaurant de Mesilla to celebrate. We have issued invitations and are asking pre-payment of \$25 per person for the event. We welcome all who would like to join us for the occasion. Please call Gwen Hanson at 556-9251 for information.



Doña Ana County Commissioners • Regular Meeting

Jan. 8, 2018 • All 5 members present

Observer: Jo Galván Nash

The meeting began with the selection of a chairperson for the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). Newly elected commissioner Karen Trujillo was selected as chairwoman; Isabella Solis was selected as vice chair.

A presentation by NMSU Chancellor Dan Arvizu followed. He stressed that the university must continue to be a catalyst to economic development. In addition, he said it's important to focus on a "healthy border initiative," and all parties must reach across the border and provide economic development in both directions. Other issues the university will advance include critical infrastructures - food, water, IT, energy, partnering with the Space Port, and job creation for students. He said there is a shortage of qualified teachers, which he hopes to address with the legislature.

The BOCC considered a Resolution to revise the county's Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP), 2020/2024. Robert Armijo, director of engineering and road department, said they are simply adding additional projects to the base document. The BOCC must approve that list, which includes:

1. Runway construction, \$4 million; increase capacity and better lighting.
2. County sidewalks and lighting in the Ledesma area, \$325,000.
3. Chaparral, \$175K, design a microwave radio network and VOIP; replace existing system which is old.
4. County community center playground and improvements, \$100K, including a fence and play equipment.

He said any project added to the ICIP can be considered for future funding. The Resolution passed 5-0.

- *Next Regular Commission Meeting: 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, County Govt. Center*

WHO'S WHO DIRECTORY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

The LWVGLC's Who's Who Directory to Government Officials has been updated and is online. Thanks to Dale Yeo, you simply have to click on the 2019 guide located on the League's website (<https://www.lwvglc.org/documents/whoswho.pdf>). The PDF file can also be downloaded to your computer. The 16-page document contains names and contact information for elected officials, ranging from the U.S. President to federal and state offices to local elected officials.

Advocacy Training Scheduled

An advocacy training is available on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Branigan Library. In you are interested in attending, RSVP to Rich Renner, who works with the International Organization called "RESULTS." RESULTS advocates for the elimination of poverty on a global, national and local level. This legislative advocacy workshop is open to GLC members. RESULTS will conduct workshop #1 below. RSVP to Rich Renner of RESULTS Las Cruces at 360-698-4786. Below is additional information from the RESULTS flyer:



Raising our Voices

Whether you're a seasoned activist, or just starting to realize your potential for creating change, making the right moves when it comes to advocacy can seem mysterious and daunting. RESULTS has been successfully teaching and practicing advocacy skills for nearly 40 years. In this newly energized era of citizen action we would like to share with you what we have learned about turning ordinary citizens into effective spokespeople and building legislative and public support for your and our concerns. RESULTS, an international organization working to end poverty, has powerful training materials for speaking and writing to legislators and media. We have developed useful avenues for reaching a variety of political views with effective language.

In a two-hour workshop you will learn and practice how to speak powerfully to legislators or in governmental meetings. You will also learn a format for letters to the editor, to our legislators and for Op Ed submissions.

A second session addresses building relationships with Congressional staff, achieving productive face-to-face meetings with our legislators and media and framing language so our concerns can be heard by liberals and conservatives alike.

We are very proud of reviews like these from friends we have made along the way.

Organization and Trainer Profiles

Bio: Sandy Duckert is a retired educator with her doctorate in educational leadership and is a volunteer with RESULTS working to end domestic and global poverty. She has taught advocacy skills to both low income and privileged individuals, lobbied members of Congress both locally and in Washington, D.C., and helped start two RESULTS groups in New Mexico. She is currently volunteering with Indivisible groups and others in the Albuquerque area offering advocacy training skills for speaking, writing, and meeting with legislators and policy makers. She lives in Corrales near her lively 4 year- old grand twins for whom she hopes to help make the world a safer and more just place.

Workshop One: Powerful Speaking and Writing to Your Legislators - How to speak powerfully in 2 to 5 minutes before federal, state, local legislators or other governmental agencies, and how to write effective letters to the editor, opinion pieces and letters to our elected officials. The premise is we need to make our hopes and intentions as constituents known to guide media and government to improve policies affecting our lives and the lives of our neighbors. Results strategies work and we hope you will join us in raising our voices successfully.

Workshop Two: Arranging and Conducting lobby meetings – Tips on how and who to contact for lobby meetings, the language frames for various kinds of thinking and how to make written requests, agendas and follow up contacts. We practice a mock meeting with the legislator on an issue of your choice to refine the language needed to open their minds and hearts. The premise is we need to use respectful and sincere techniques to build relationships and confidence in our efforts with our Members of Congress and other political leaders so they will make the changes we want to see.

Candidate Books for LWVGLC Book Club – February 2019

Status	Book
Selected for February 28 at Marjorie's	<p>The Fifth Risk by Michael Lewis</p> <p>What are the consequences if the people given control over our government have no idea how it works? Michael Lewis's brilliant narrative takes us into the engine rooms of a government under attack by its own leaders. In Agriculture the funding of vital programs like food stamps and school lunches is being slashed. The Commerce Department may not have enough staff to conduct the 2020 Census properly. Over at Energy, where international nuclear risk is managed, it's not clear there will be enough inspectors to track and locate black market uranium before terrorists do. Willful ignorance plays a role in these looming disasters.</p>
Selected for March 28 at Viki's	<p>Our Towns - A 100,000 mile Journey into the Heart of America by James & Deborah Fallows</p> <p>A vivid, surprising portrait of the civic and economic reinvention taking place in America, town by town and generally out of view of the national media. A realistically positive and provocative view of the country between its coasts.</p>
Selected for April 25 (at Dale's?)	<p>Dark Territory – the Secret History of Cyber War by Fred Kaplan</p> <p>"An important, disturbing, and gripping history" (<i>Kirkus Reviews</i>), the never-before-told story of the computer scientists and the NSA, Pentagon, and White House policymakers who invent and employ cyber wars—where every country can be a major power player and every hacker a mass destroyer.</p> <p>"An eye-opening history of our government's efforts to effectively manage our national security in the face of the largely open global communications network established by the World Wide Web....<i>Dark Territory</i> is a page-turner [and] consistently surprising" (<i>The New York Times</i>).</p>
New 7-14-18	<p>Anna, Age Eight: The data-driven prevention of childhood trauma and maltreatment by Katherine Ortega Courtney PhD (Author), Dominic Cappello (Author)</p> <p>We are in the midst of an epidemic of childhood trauma with far-reaching effects that the public, media and lawmakers would prefer not to see. With research showing child maltreatment is substantiated for one in eight children in the US. The book suggests a series of shockingly modest yet strategic reforms, changes that can ensure that the future systems of protection in every community are better at identifying their own shortcomings and fixing them. The proven strategies proposed have the power to heal families, illustrating how we can all take courageous and compassionate steps toward designing child-friendly, trauma-free communities.</p>
New 9-10-18	<p>The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure by Greg Lukianoff & Jonathan Haidt</p> <p>Something is going wrong on many college campuses in the last few years. Rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide are rising. Speakers are shouted down. Students and professors say they are walking on eggshells and afraid to speak honestly. How did this happen?</p>
New 9-28-18	<p>Fear: Trump in the White House by Bob Woodward</p> <p>With authoritative reporting honed through eight presidencies from Nixon to Obama, author Bob Woodward reveals in unprecedented detail the harrowing life inside President Donald Trump's White House and precisely how he makes decisions on major foreign and domestic policies. Woodward draws from hundreds of hours of interviews with firsthand sources, meeting notes, personal diaries, files and documents. The focus is on the explosive debates and the decision-making in the Oval Office, the Situation Room, Air Force One and the White House residence.</p>
New 9-30-18	<p>Identity: The Demand for Dignity and the Politics of Resentment by Francis Fukuyama</p> <p>Demand for recognition of one's identity is a master concept that unifies much of what is going on in world politics today. The universal recognition on which liberal democracy is based has been increasingly challenged by narrower forms of recognition based on nation, religion, sect, race, ethnicity, or gender, which have resulted in anti-immigrant populism, the upsurge of politicized Islam, the fractious "identity liberalism" of college campuses, and the emergence of white nationalism. The demand for identity cannot be transcended; we must begin to shape identity in a way that supports rather than undermines democracy.</p>

Candidate Books for LWVGLC Book Club – February 2019 (cont.)

Status	Book
<p>New 10-3-18</p>	<p>Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger by Rebecca Traister From Rebecca Traister, the <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author of <i>All the Single Ladies</i> comes a vital, incisive exploration into the transformative power of female anger and its ability to transcend into a political movement. The story of female fury and its cultural significance demonstrates the long history of bitter resentment that has enshrouded women's slow rise to political power in America, as well as the ways that anger is received when it comes from women as opposed to when it comes from men.</p>
<p>New 1-27-19</p>	<p>The Death of Truth: Notes on Falsehood in the Age of Trump by Michiko Kakutani From the Pulitzer Prize-winning critic comes an impassioned critique of America's retreat from reason. We live in a time when the very idea of objective truth is mocked and discounted by the occupants of the White House. How did truth become an endangered species in contemporary America? This decline began decades ago, and in <i>The Death of Truth</i>, former <i>New York Times</i> critic Michiko Kakutani takes a penetrating look at the cultural forces that contributed to this gathering storm.</p>
<p>New 1-27-19</p>	<p>Let Me Finish: Trump, the Kushners, Bannon, New Jersey, and the Power of In-Your-Face Politics by Chris Christie From the outspoken former governor, a no-holds-barred account of Chris Christie's rise to power through the bare-knuckle politics of New Jersey and his frank, startling insights about Donald Trump from inside the president's inner circle. In <i>Let Me Finish</i>, Christie sets the record straight about his tenure as a corruption-fighting prosecutor and a Republican running a Democratic state, and what really happened in the 2016 campaign and inside Trump Tower.</p>

Treasurer's Report

Provided by William Little, Treasurer

1 January 2019
League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces
For 3 January 2019 Board Meeting

Activity since last Board Meeting

Expenses:

Consumer Cellular:	\$ 19.32	[League cell phone]
Legislator Meals	\$120.00	[December luncheon]
TOTAL:	\$139.82	

Income:

Membership \$188.43 [from September, net of PayPal fees]

New ½-year membership check received: \$32.50 [to be deposited in January]

31 December 2018 Checkbook Balance: \$6,104.09.

Education Fund

Received \$50 in donations [to be deposited in January]

DISCUSSION

Currently, all monies in the PayPal account have been transferred to checking and are reflected in the bank balance shown above.

There will be a charge in January 2019 for printing the League history [50th Anniversary activity].
Are there any other anticipated non-recurring expenses before the Annual Meeting?