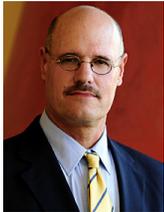
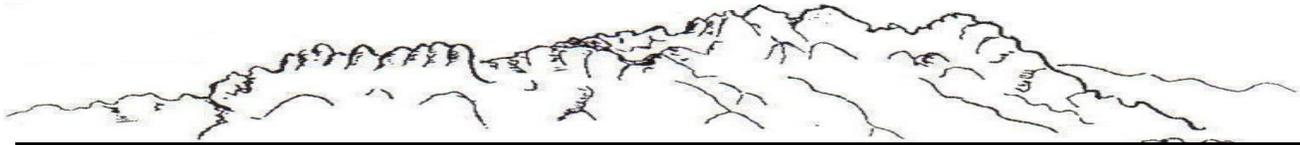


The VOTER

League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
Web Site: www.lwvglc.org
June 2014



Lunch with a Leader

Las Cruces Consumer Loan Abuse

Steve Fischmann, Former NM State Senator and Community Activist

Monday, June 9, 2014, 11:30 a.m.

Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle

High cost storefront lending activity is out of control in Las Cruces. There are currently 42 stores within the city limits making loans, primarily to the poor, that average 350% interest. The state legislature, governor and the attorney general have failed to act on the issue, but the city can. Senator Fischmann will talk about what is happening and what can be done in the world of Las Cruces storefront loans.

Steve Fischmann has served in the New Mexico Senate, worked as an executive at Levi Strauss & Co. including as President of Levi Strauss & Co Designer Group, and owned and operated real estate brokerage and property inspection businesses. He is currently retired and works as a community activist. He has BAs in English and Political Science, and an MBA from UCLA.

We invite you to join us for lunch!

JULY - LEAGUE ON VACATION: No Lunch with a Leader or Board Meeting!

CALENDAR

June 2 (Monday) - Deadline for making reservations Lunch with a Leader, RSVP: Roberta Gran, Tel: 373-8490, Email: robertagran@q.com.

June 5 (Thursday) - 1:30-3:30 p.m., Board Meeting, City Hall Conference Room 2007A. All are welcome!

June 6 (Friday) - 1:00 p.m., Water Issues (New Committee), Good Samaritan Bldg. E, Contact: Win Jacobs, 521-9331.

June 6-10 - LWVUS Convention, Omni Hotel, Dallas, TX.

June 9 (Monday) - 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch with a Leader: Steve Fischmann, Las Cruces Consumer Loan Abuse. Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. \$10. Reservations Required: Roberta Gran, Tel: 373-8490, Email: robertagran@q.com. If reservations are not cancelled, you will be charged for lunch.

June 19 (Thursday) - 2:00-4:00 p.m., Third Thursday Book Club, Dog Whistle Politics by Ian Haney López at the home of Sue Cain, 647-8250.

Notable Dates

June 14 - Flag Day

June 15 - Father's Day

LWVGLC Web Site Update
(see p. 10)

The VOTER

Volume 46, Issue 2 - June 2014
Usually Published Monthly

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

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

President - Erika Graf-Webster**Vice President & Program for
Study and Action**
Gwen Hanson**Secretary** - Sadie Valverde**Treasurer** - Ruth Benjamins**Director, Membership**
Johnnie Aldrich**Co-Director, Voter Services**
Marcia Anderson & Dale Yeo**Director Events and Speakers**
Roberta Gran**Nominating Committee**

Chair: Ardyth Norem
Elected Member: Sue Cain

Program for Study & Action**Water Issues**

Win Jacobs - 521-9331

Voting Impediments

Roberta Gran - 373-8490
Johnnie Aldrich - 522-1544

Quality of Life (Happiness)

Cynthia Pelak - (575) 496-3170

Affordable Housing

Vicki Simons -522-4813
Christina Little-373-1882

Education

Jane Asche - 532-8087
Sue Cain - 647-8250

Election Procedures

(Chair to be determined)

**Mental Health Services
in Doña Ana County**

Becky Beckett - 522-8171

ACTION COMMITTEE

Barbara Goedecke - 522-0323

Web Master

Dale Yeo - 405-7580

Newsletter Editor

Bonnie Burn - 526-0013
burnb@comcast.net

*President's Message*

We held our first Board meeting and our first membership meeting of the new League year that started on May 1 (see Board Highlights, p. 4), so we're off and running. We added a new position to the Board, Director for Events and Speakers, and appointed Roberta Gran to this position. If you have ideas for interesting speakers for our luncheons, please contact Roberta, 373-8490, robertagran@q.com.

One of the most important issues addressed at this Board meeting was to commit to systematically planning our **legislative priorities** for the coming year. We plan to schedule meetings with each local legislator in the fall and inform him or her of the issues that are of most importance to us in the upcoming 2015 legislative session. My personal feeling, ever since I have been on the Board, is that we tend to spread ourselves too thin, always trying to tackle multiple issues and losing effectiveness because we scatter our legislative advocacy into many areas instead of focusing on the ones that are most important to us.

We have, therefore, decided to devote much of the August Board meeting to discussing our legislative priorities and picking the two or three that are of greatest importance to us. Once these are identified, we will develop written materials and assemble packets for each local legislator that we will leave with him or her when we meet in the fall. We are inviting the chairs of our ongoing studies and committees to this meeting to ensure that we get their input. If any of you are interested in participating in this legislative priorities discussion, please let me know by contacting me at egrifwebster@q.com. The August Board meeting is scheduled for August 7. Please plan to come around 2 p.m. Agendas will be emailed to you beforehand.

The other subject that is capturing my attention is the continuing City Council activity regarding minimum wage. With the May issue of the VOTER, a Special Report was sent to you. In it, I summarized the Great Conversations meetings that had been held. A proposed new ordinance regarding this issue has been submitted to the Council by CAFé. However, at the May 5 meeting, Councilors Silva and Levatino submitted an alternative proposal to the Council. Each proposal will be evaluated by the City Attorney and then discussed by the Council. We plan to follow these discussions and outcomes and report on them in future VOTER issues.

Erika

Editor’s Letter to Members - Bonnie Burn

I have been editing The VOTER since 2007. It is time for me to step down. I’m writing to ask one of you to take on this enjoyable task.

A process has been put into place that makes the issue fairly simple to produce:

- The deadline is always the 15th of the month, and 12 issues are produced unless the League is taking off one of the months as we are in July.
- The format includes a President’s Message, a members page, news from local, state, and national Leagues, community meetings and issues of interest, and observer reports. League members have been very cooperative in writing reports about the community and issues of interest meetings they have attended. Our local committee chairs author articles to keep us informed about their committee work. Observers also develop articles.
- The editor continually searches for news that will interest readers about issues for advocacy or of political interest that will educate members.

As with all jobs, there are some requirements:

- Knowledge of a publishing software. The VOTER isn’t fussy—it has been published in many softwares, none better than the other. Currently it is published using MS Publisher software.
- Interest in seeking out information in the public domain that focuses on issues on which the League has positions (local, state, and national levels) and on which advocacy at all levels of the League may be taken.
- An eye for design is helpful but can be learned. Design is defined as grouping information, adding clip art and pictures, and generally making the issue of interest to the reader.

It has given me great pleasure to follow in the footsteps of the previous VOTER editors, and I am confident that a new editor will serve our membership well.

Please express your interest by contacting me: 526-0013 or burnb@comcast.net. It would be helpful to me to work with a new editor beginning with the September issue. The deadline for that issue is August 15. Thank you for volunteering.

League Friends

John Ameriks
 Anonymous
 Bob Burn
 Pat Kratz
 Louise Lockhart

Barbara Myers
 Jean Ossorio
 Cliff Pelton
 Donna Tate

Dues Renewals

- \$60 - Individual
- \$90 - Household
- \$30 - Student

Dues payment and donations to the operating fund are payable to LWV of Greater Las Cruces.

Donations to the LWV Education Fund are payable to League of Women Voters Education Fund. (Tax deductible)

Mail to: LWV of Greater Las Cruces, P.O. Box 8322, Las Cruces, NM 88006

**Renewal Period
 May 1 - June 30**

**MEMBERSHIP
 DIRECTORY
 2014-2015**

HAVE YOU

Moved?

**Changed Telephone Number?
 Changed Email Address?**

Please check your listing and send any changes to
 Johnnie Aldrich, Director,
 Membership
 Tel: 522-1544 or
 Email:
 jaldrich@earthlink.net

**New Directories available
 August 2013**

Board Highlights - May 5, 2014, Meson de Mesilla, 1:00-3:30 p.m. - Bonnie Burn

The newly elected Board members met for the first time with returning Board members in an orientation and planning meeting. Present were Erika Graf-Webster, President; Gwen Hanson, Vice President and Program for Study and Action; Ruth Benjamins, Treasurer; Johnnie Aldrich, Membership Director; Marcia Anderson and Dale Yeo, Co-Directors, Voter Services. Bonnie Burn substituted for Sadie Valverde, Secretary, who was absent. Roberta Gran was appointed Events and Speakers Director (On Board).

Board Orientation: Board members received a copy of *Impact on Issues*, LWVUS publication of positions, reviewed the nonpartisan position and discussed implications for political activities, and responsibilities of each of the member portfolios. The Board will be meeting on the first Thursday of each month from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room 2007, except when holidays occur at that time or the conference room is not available.

Web Site: Dale Yeo reported on the update of the LWVGLC web site that will be activated this month. It has the capability for paying membership dues on line. Heather Barry Kurtz worked with Dale to develop the site. (See announcement, p. 10)

Other Business: The list of directions given to the Board at the Annual Meeting was reviewed. A Water Committee was established: Kurt Anderson, Marjorie Burr, Jane Carter, and Sharon Thomas. A Health Committee is forming: Sue Cain, Vicki Simons, Ardyth Norem, and Judy LaPointe. The Board also re-activated the former Election Procedures Committee: Erika Graf-Webster, Roberta Gran, Gwen Hanson, Bonnie Burn, and Johnnie Aldrich. Other members who have an interest in joining any of these committees should contact Erika Graf-Webster, 521-0600, email: egrafwebster@q.com.

Representing LWVGLC at LWVNM Council (May 17, Santa Fe) are Marcia and Kurt Anderson and at the 2014 LWVUS Convention (June 6-10, Dallas) are Ardyth Norem and Dale Yeo.

The Voter Services co-directors held a meeting to plan for the upcoming General Election on November 4, 2014. Chairs for Voter Registration, Candidates Forum, and Legislative Breakfast are needed. Volunteers to help with voter services activities also are needed.

The Board identified a number of items that need to be done so that League can continue with its advocacy and maintain its visibility in the community. Many hands make work easier.

Ruth Benjamins reported that AAUW will be asking the City Council and County Commissioners to support the Fair Pay Act for Women, legislation recently passed by NM legislators. Board members agreed that GLC should jointly sponsor the request.

Next board meeting: June 5, 1:30-3:30 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 2007A.

Definition of Consensus - Marjorie Burr

Here is my favorite definition of consensus. "Consensus connotes broad agreement after a process of deliberation during which time most members of a group coalesce around a particular idea or alternative."

I like this for League because it includes a "process of deliberation." That says to me that we really should have more discussion--over time--among members so that they have time to consider ideas or alternatives and the coalescing can then take place.

The Signal and the Noise by Nate Silver

Look Back: The Economy and Its Development in Doña Ana County State Representative Bill McCamley

Reported by Bob Burn

At present, Doña Ana County offers little to young adults in the age range of approximately 25 to 50. Most people under 25 are students and those over 50 are at or near retirement. For those in the mid range there are few high-paying jobs so they are apt to move out of New Mexico no matter how strong their ties are to the state. For that reason, one could argue that the 45% of the state budget spent on public education and 12% spent on higher education is a waste of taxpayer money because education is not needed for citizens to be able to fill minimum wage service jobs.

Economic development that will produce high paying jobs depends on (1) producing items within the county and exporting and selling them outside the county and (2) bringing new job producing industries into the county. Recycling within the county is not economic development. Selling goods produced within the county to residents of the county or bringing in businesses such as Walmart that do not add new jobs but simply take jobs away from already existing businesses such as Albertson's and Fiesta Foods is not economic development.

Over its history since the end of the Civil War, five main factors have affected economic development in Doña Ana County.

Agriculture: The Mesilla Valley offers rich, irrigated land for a variety of crops including cotton, chile, onions, lettuce, cabbage, grains, and more recently pecans. All of these crops have added to the county's economic development. Today agriculture is threatened by drought and encroaching development, and agricultural jobs are affected by mechanized farming and importation of farm products such as chile from foreign countries.

Transportation (Railroad and Interstate Highways): In the late 1800s, Las Cruces

became a major railroad stop for passengers, exporting agricultural products, and importing products such as lumber for building homes and businesses. Las Cruces also provided logistical support (coal and water) for trains passing east and west across the country. Passenger train service no longer exists in Las Cruces. Trucks on interstate highways have replaced much of the railroad traffic, so Las Cruces does still have many transportation advantages.

New Mexico State University: From its founding in 1888 to the present, NMSU has provided economic development in the community via student income, attendance at sporting events, payment of local taxes, and federal and research grants. Threats to NMSU's continued vibrancy are on-line college classes and the high cost of tuition.

White Sands Missile Range: White Sands brought in high paying jobs and employees who most likely live in Las Cruces and contribute to the economy. Federal testing programs and work by outside contractors also boost the Las Cruces economy. However, general downsizing of the defense industry and the military may reduce the impact of White Sands on the local economy. A particular impact may result from the recent retirement of our two very senior senators and loss of their influence in Congress.

Retirees: In the 1980s, Las Cruces was rated a top place to retire. The influx of retirees brought in money, created growth in housing, and the opening of a second hospital. It also created more traffic, political involvement of seniors who, now that they are here, often tend to vote against the needs of younger citizens and demand a stop to future growth. While some high paying jobs result from the increase in seniors, most new jobs are low paying service sector jobs.

(Continued on page 6)

Economic Development *(Continued from page 5)*

What are future possibilities for economic growth and development?

Spaceport: The Spaceport is a combination public and private endeavor. The anchor tenant will hopefully create the need for development of support industries in and around Las Cruces.

Santa Teresa: The rail hub in Santa Teresa should create many, high paying jobs and result in exportation and importation of products and materials to and from Doña Ana County. As rail and truck traffic increases in the free trade zone between the United States and Mexico, support industries should develop within the county.

West Mesa: The west mesa has become an area of value-added agriculture. That means, for example, that chile grown in the county is converted to salsa for export and sale elsewhere. Dairy products are converted to cheese for export. Brackish water and algae are converted to diesel oil. All value-added agriculture creates jobs.

Technology Transfer: Technology transfer involves development of innovative ideas at, for example, NMSU's Arrowhead Park and

the development of new businesses based on the innovative ideas.

Film Industry Back Lot: The back lot under development in Doña Ana County has the potential to produce jobs including in manufacturing, though perhaps of a cyclic and temporary nature.

What do businesses need?

Work Force: Businesses universally need a well educated work force with technical skills and strength in mathematics and engineering. The work force must be willing to work three shifts for a full 24-hour day. Apparently, workers in Las Cruces have been reluctant to work late evening and night shifts.

Infrastructure: Businesses do not want to start from scratch. Companies want buildings to move into, water, natural gas, and electricity provided, telephone and internet communications, and transportation.

Tax Structure: The New Mexico tax structure discourages new businesses from entering the state. The legislature needs to improve the corporate tax structure to make the state more attractive to businesses.

Behavioral Health Audit Investigation Update - Bonnie Burn

The NM Behavioral Mental Health Services crisis created last year is being resolved incrementally as the NM Attorney General's Office combs through an audit performed by the Public Consulting Group (PCG) that alleged fraud in Medicaid payments. Medicaid payments were withdrawn, NM providers closed, and replacement companies from Arizona were brought in to fill the void. The audit was kept secret and NM providers could not defend themselves while the AG's office investigated.

As information become available, the integrity of the audit upon which the NM Human Services Department based its allegations is being questioned. The data uncovered by the AG's office and that in the PCG audit are vastly different. For example, review of Easter Seals revealed a potential overbilling of Medicaid payments by \$34,126 over a three-year period, while PCG's projection was an \$850,870 overbilling. AG investigators tried to track down complaints of fraud, and showed how they and PCG arrived at different conclusions about suspicious claims based on methodology. PCG uses a random sample that is then extrapolated to reach a dollar amount of fraud. Examination of patients' records reveals the circumstances that resulted in the charge and may not represent overbillings.

While the audit remains ongoing, mental health services may be reduced further if La Frontera follows through on a proposed staff reduction to meet costs.

NEW MEXICO FIRST
A Town Hall on Water Planning, Development and Use
 April 15-16, 2014 Marriott Pyramid N., Albuquerque NM
Win Jacobs, Observer

Eight topics were covered:

1. Regional and State Water Planning
2. Conservation and Reuse (Individual, Municipal, Agricultural, Industrial)
3. Watersheds and Environment
4. Water Shortages
5. Brackish and Produced Water
6. Water Financing
7. Water Rights
8. Water Compacts

Participants chose the work group for the topic of most interest and familiarity to them; then they spent the two days of the town hall sharing their multiple understandings and concerns regarding the topic. The goal was to reach group agreement on needs and plausible implementation; presentation to the whole meeting, for refinement and, again that wonderful League word, *consensus*, concluded the town hall—except that participants were expected to volunteer for implementation actions, some immediate and some longer term.

Within this limited space, I will only note ideas that were new to me. I learned that brackish water is way underground while produced water results from mining operations, that **toilet to tap** not only can but must become reality, and that forest fires in watersheds endanger not only the surrounding communities but also the water supply even hundreds of miles away.

The other topics were somewhat familiar, having been on innumerable agendas for innumerable years. Yet in 2014 and beyond, our dealings with them have grown far more complex. The citizen who xeriscapes is still important but the deeper play is firmly in the courts of law and engineering. Adjudication of water rights is still important, though not paramount in everyone's mind—ignorance is bliss, settlement might hurt.

The Water Issues Group next meets June 6. Current members have accepted specific reports to research and share. There is still so much more to learn. Come learn with us!

Children's Reading Foundation of Doña Ana County Update - Bonnie Burn

Since 2011, when then NM Senator Steve Fischmann and School Board Member Maria Flores spearheaded the formation of the Children's Reading Foundation (CRF), the League has been involved. The mission of the foundation is to:

- Encourage and educate families about their important role in raising a reader.
- Support schools in assuring that students read on grade level by the end of the third grade.
- Facilitate community involvement in helping young readers be successful.

This year CRF is focusing on supporting First Teacher, a parent engagement program. This is the third year of the program, and it has been offered to 150 families in Las Cruces. The program involves parents of children 3-5 years old and provides techniques, activities and materials designed to show parents their vital role in preparing their children not only for their first day of school but also for a successful school career. The great part is that just about every pre-Kindergarten skill can be taught by sharing a book with a child—that's cost effective and comforting.



League News



Voter Services - Prepared by Marcia Anderson.

Voter Services will have a busy year in 2014-15. We will be holding Candidates Forums and publishing a *Voters Guide* in October as well as conducting ongoing Voter Registration leading up to the November election. Additionally, we will be responsible for the Legislative Breakfast in early December.

At the May luncheon, a sign-up sheet yielded volunteers to help in these areas: voter registration, candidates forums, Legislative Breakfast, *Who's Who* and *Voters Guide*. Dale Yeo, co-director, is the lead person for the *Voters Guide* and *Who's Who*, but we need more volunteers and a chair for each of the other areas: voter registration, candidates forums, and Legislative Breakfast. Be assured that all chairs will have plenty of help and support. Voter Service works best if one person acts as coordinator in each of these areas. If you have not yet committed yourself to helping with one of the League's vital activities, please consider the Voter Services Committee. Contact Marcia Anderson (maanders211@yahoo.com) or Dale Yeo (daleyeo@comcast.net).

In the past month, thanks to Sue Cain, Bonnie Burn, Roberta Gran and Martha Duran, eight new voters were registered at Mayfield High School and one at the Veterans' Fair. We serve our community in so very many ways!

Education Committee - Prepared by Bonnie Burn

Ruth Benjamins and Bonnie Burn will be chairing the Education Committee for 2014-2015. Kudos to Jane Asche and Sue Cain for their excellent leadership work (see

Annual Meeting Voter, p.11). We are pleased that they will continue their membership on the committee, along with Mildred Evaskovich, Barbara Goedecke, and Sadie Valverde.

The committee took action on the K12 Inc. contract recently authorized by the Farmington Municipal School District for a virtual charter school named the New Mexico Virtual Academy (NMVA). The school opened in the fall of 2012 and serves 500 students from sixth to 12th grade in an online environment. Its headquarters and learning center are located at 845 N. Sullivan Avenue in Farmington.

We wrote a letter to Attorney General Gary King asking him to investigate the legality of the contract and questioned its compliance with NM State procurement codes. NM State Senator Linda Lopez also asked the Attorney General if this agreement was in violation of state law. On April 1, Attorney General King gave his opinion.

His opinion states that the current contract violates the Charter Schools Act, NMSA 1978, that prohibits the management of a charter school by a for-profit company. The purpose of the Act is *to prevent the kind of association ...that places a school in a position of dependency regarding issues of regular operation and control*. The intent of the NM Legislators toward the word, "management" may be ambiguous, but the Attorney General found enough use of the word, *manage*, in the service agreement to suggest an acknowledgement by the parties to the Agreement that K12 Inc. serves in a management capacity for its contract virtual school. "Accordingly, we conclude that the services provided by K12 Inc. and the relationship created under the Agreement constitute 'management of the charter school' under Section 22-8B-4."

(Continued on page 9)

Education Committee *(Continued from page 8)*

Regarding compliance with NM State procurement codes, it appears that the original service agreement, signed in May 2012, for 10 years was revised on October 2013 so that NMVA's contract, now for four years, does not violate the state procurement law of "[a] contract for professional services may not exceed four years" except under certain conditions. Section 13-1-150(B)

It is incumbent on the voters of NM to monitor the movement into NM of for-profit online schools. This school choice reform transfers public monies into the for-profit sector at the expense of public education and non-profit charter public schools.

The LWVGLC Education Subcommittee has completed a report on for-profit education. Entitled, Literature Review and Report: For-Profit Virtual Charter Schools, the paper will be available at the LWVGLC website: www.lwvglc.org, and distributed to members as a separate document with The VOTER, June 2014 e-issue.

Issues of continued interest include changes in the methods of teacher evaluations and implementation of the Core Curriculum State Standards.



**STATE COACH SOUGHT
for Membership and Leadership
Development (MLD) Project.**

For the past year, Bonnie Burn has been serving as one of two state coaches for a newly implemented project by LWVUS to increase membership and leadership among the local Leagues throughout the United States. Bonnie has resigned and LWVNM is seeking a replacement for her

The state coaches are mentors for two local Leagues—in this case, Central New Mexico and Los Alamos. Mentoring involves

distributing information that will encourage efforts to increase membership and develop leaders. During a once-a-month telephone call, a state coach talks with the MLD team from the local League. Again, during a once-a-month telephone call, state coaches talk with the LWVUS coach who has been assigned to NM. Please contact Bonnie Burn, 526-0013, to volunteer and for details.

**LWVNM Holds Biennial Council, May 17,
Santa Fe: - Marcia Anderson, Delegate**

In the LWVNM President's Report, kudos were given to LWVGLC for the strong letter written about privatization of education in Farmington--K-12 Inc.

Central NM LWV tried a Round Robin format for informing area legislators of League's positions on issues. Every legislator circulated to tables staffed by League members conversant with a specific topic. They informed legislators about League priority issues and positions and heard the views of the legislators about their proposed legislation. It sounded like a workable and interesting format.

Membership: Declining membership is a concern for the League as a whole. Local Leagues are urged to work on strategies for recruiting new members because the drop in membership decreases income and necessitates a raise in PMP. Reduced income also led to sending out *La Palabra* electronically rather than having it printed. There was some reaction and discussion about this latter item.

Concurrence Process: LWVUS was consulted about the correctness of taking the Natural Resources Position drafted by a small committee to local Leagues for discussion, refining and concurring. The response from National was that many Leagues are finding new ways to arrive at positions and this approach is acceptable. The committee would like local Leagues to

(Continued on page 11)



We hope you enjoy the new look and we look forward to your feedback!

LWVGLC Website Gets New Look

Dale Yeo, Web Master

The new look of the LWVGLC website is coming soon and may already be online as you read this. Everything that was on the original version of our website is also on the updated one plus there are several new features including: a slide show of LWVGLC people and events, video, a new calendar format, and an online membership form where you can pay your dues online via PayPal.

Please take time to look at the new format and learn to use its features. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me: Dale Yeo <daleyeo@comcast.net>.

Celebrate!

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Designation

After years of advocacy, proposed federal legislation by two NM U.S. Senators, and a visit from the Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, acreage in the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks region has received designation as a national monument. On May 21, President Obama signed a proclamation granting national monument status to approximately 500,000 acres of land with prehistoric, historic, and scientific.



City of Las Cruces Mayor, Ken Miyagishima, County Commissioner Chair, Billy Garrett, and NM Representative Jeff Steinborn, who has been instrumental in enabling this designation to come to fruition, were invited to attend the signing ceremonies at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

President Marnie Leverett (2003-2005) involved the League in this effort when she convened the first wilderness meeting. "Many of us have supported the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks monument proposal," said President Graf-Webster in an email message announcing the achievement to League members. "What a nice success for this community and the county!"

The national monument means these areas will be preserved for use by current and future generations in Doña Ana County

LEAGUE OBSERVER REPORTS

The League’s Observer Corps can enable greater coverage and information gathering, provide early warning of upcoming issues of concern, increase League’s visibility, and assist in networking with other groups. We appreciate the reports that are submitted by Observers. Following the League practice of publishing nonpartisan, objective reports, the information submitted may be edited for content and brevity.

South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA) Board Meeting, May 15, 2014, 9 a.m., Transfer Station Board Room - *Johnnie Aldrich, Observer*

All Board members were present. Director Peck presented two awards to exemplary employees

- Ricardo Gomez, Truck Driver, Employee Safety Award, and
- Pam Davis, Purchasing Manager for the Authority, who is retiring after 25 years of service to the City and County.

Good News in Administrative Report:

Last month’s solid waste collection numbers increased over the previous month by 4%. The success was attributed to the 4.5 tons of glass collected in just the two weeks since the procedure was announced. Peck also reported happily that “we seem to have gotten the message out” because very little glass was deposited to the blue bins. There the glass is designated as a “contaminant.” The recycling public is using YELLOW for glass.

Discussion is continuing with White Sands Missile Range about making both blue and yellow bins available for use at the Headquarters installation. Collection points there will result in a huge increase in tonnage; the more tonnage, the more income from the sale of the various materials.

Bad News in Administrative Report: A local user has stopped buying Styrofoam; therefore, Styrofoam might not be collected after 1 June. Director Peck is exploring other potential users; Board members made several suggestions.

Discarded tires are still a serious problem, especially in the desert around Chaparral. Peck is exploring the possible purchase of a

“portable” tire shredder, one that can be hauled to the contaminated site behind a pick-up truck. The market for shredded tires is strong, so the expense of the shredder would eventually be covered.

Financial Report: The contents of the report’s 14 pages revealed that the Authority is still not operating wholly “in the black,” but this situation had been expected during these early years of the Authority’s existence. Aging equipment that must be replaced or extensively repaired is a major expense. Debt retirement is in the very near future and the lowering of the debt ratio will considerably add to the entity’s income.

RECYCLE GLASS

Accepted

Not Accepted

Clean and Dry glass food and beverage containers.
Color separated: Green, Blue, Amber and Clear

No Vases
No Dishes or Cups
No Window Glass
No Light Bulbs
No Test Tubes
No Ceramics
No Lids

LWVNM Council (Continued from page 9)

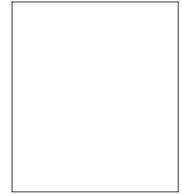
schedule a presentation with a discussion meeting in the early Fall: August, September, October or early in November.

State Candidates Forum: There will be state candidate forums for the following offices only: Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor. They will be held in Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Las Cruces.

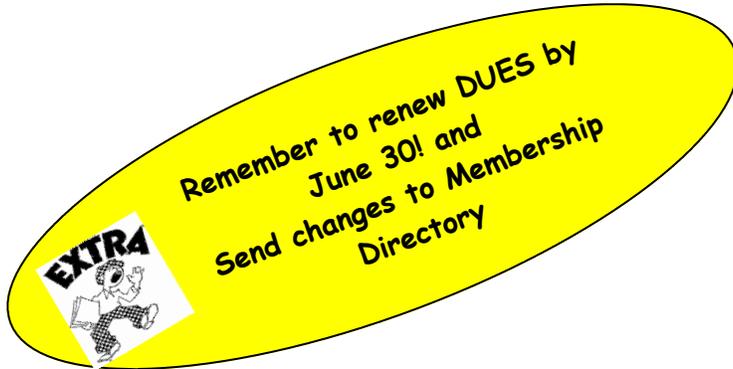


League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces
 P.O. Box 8322
 Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322

(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
 Web Site: www.lwvglc.org



FIRST CLASS



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Membership Application

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

Name: _____
 2nd Household: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Email: _____
 Telephone: _____

Contributions:

_____ League of Women Voters Education
 Fund (Tax Deductible)
 _____ Contribute to LWV of Greater Las
 Cruces (Not tax deductible)

Mail checks to LWV of Greater Las Cruces,
 P.O. Box 8322, Las Cruces, NM 88006

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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