

# The VOTER

League of Women Voters  
of Greater Las Cruces  
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)  
[www.lwvglc.org](http://www.lwvglc.org)  
April 2016



## 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

*Saturday, April 16, 2016, 9 a.m. - Breakfast Meeting  
Picacho Hills Country Club  
6861 Via Campestre, Las Cruces, NM*

### AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions .....Gwen Hanson  
Meeting Administration .....Gwen Hanson

- Appoint Minutes readers (2)
- Appoint Parliamentarian
- Adopt Business Meeting Rules

Changes to the Agenda .....All  
Approval of the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes (See Appendix) ..... All  
Treasurer's Report (Handouts at Meeting) .....Ruth Benjamins  
Report from the President .....Gwen Hanson  
Acknowledgements.....Gwen Hanson

#### Annual Meeting Business

- Adoption of the Nonpartisan Policy .....Gwen Hanson
- Adoption of Bylaws .....Gwen Hanson
- Adoption of the 2015-2016 Operating Budget ..... Ruth Benjamins
- Adoption of the 2015-2016 Education Budget ..... Ruth Benjamins
- Approval of Annual Membership Dues .....Ruth Benjamins
- Proposed Program for Study and Action .....Gwen Hanson
- Adoption of Current Statement of Positions
- Adoption of Recommended Program for Study and Action
- Report of the Nominating Committee and Election . . . . . Ellen Young

#### Other Annual Meeting Business

- LWVNM Council Delegates
- LWVUS Convention Delegates
- Direction to the Board from Members
- Announcements

Adjournment

**Membership  
Directory  
Please Bring It**

# *Welcome to the 46th Annual Meeting*

## **Meeting Administration**

**Appointment of Readers of the Meeting Minutes (2):** Sadie Valverde and TBD

**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 program items requires approval by a majority of members present.
- Adoption of non-recommended items requires approval by two-thirds of the members present.
- Those members present at the Annual Meeting shall constitute a quorum.

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## **Annual Meeting Business**

**NONPARTISAN POLICY** (2015-16) Membership Directory, pp. 18–19)

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## **Bylaws Committee Report**

*Christina Little and Yvonne-Magdalena Flores*

The LWVGLC bylaws were thoroughly reviewed by the Committee. After full discussion of the provisions set forth in the current bylaws, it was decided there was no need to propose any changes at this time.

In the event the LWVUS adopts the proposed changes regarding Membership requirements, i.e., non-citizens and persons under the age of 18, changes would be proposed/adopted by LWVGLC.

There was a suggestion, not a recommendation, that certain language of the LWVCNM, which are the same as LWVGLC, be added as follows:

“Changes in Program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made provided that: (1) information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed, and (2) final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding general meeting.”

Such a change gives more flexibility to Program development.

## Proposed 2016-2017 Operations Budget

	2015-2016 Budget	Actual	+/- Budget	2016-2017 Budget	Notes:
Retained Cash on Hand		\$6,226		\$7,000	
CD+Interest		\$845			
<b>Income (Operational)</b>					Member Dues: 78@\$60=\$4680 10@\$30=\$300
Member Dues	\$4,200	\$5,010	\$810	\$4,980	
VOTER Print Subscription (\$12)	\$36	\$12	-\$24	\$12	
Contributions:	\$1,000	\$1,308	\$308	\$1,400	Subscription to the VOTER is \$12/year
Members	\$800	\$873	\$73	\$1,000	
Community	\$3,059	\$0	-\$3,059	\$2,322	
Fund Raising	<b>\$9,095</b>	<b>\$7,203</b>	<b>-\$1,892</b>	<b>\$9,714</b>	
<b>Total Operating Income</b>					
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>Per Member Payment</b>					Per Member Payment @ \$32 = \$2496+\$160
LWVUS	\$2,240	\$1,671	\$569	\$2,656	Per Member Payment @ 16 = \$1248+\$80
LWVNM	\$846	\$930	-\$84	\$1,328	
<b>Meetings and Conventions</b>					2 Delegates: Hotel \$230/day@3 days +\$800 Airfare
LWVUS Convention 2016	\$510	\$140	\$370	\$3,000	
LWVUS Council (2015)	\$300	\$0	\$300	\$0	
LWVNM Convention (2015)	\$325	\$0	\$325	\$0	
LWVNM Council (2014)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100	
League Day at the Legislature	\$300	\$0	\$300	\$100	
Local Annual Meet	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$100	
Legislative Breakfast	\$100	\$32	\$68	\$120	10 Legislators@\$12
<b>Study Groups</b>	\$800	\$641	\$159	\$200	All study groups combined
<b>Symposium</b>	\$250		\$250	\$0	
<b>Board Expenses</b>				\$300	
<b>Office Expenses</b>					Include PayPal cost
Telephone	\$500	\$427	\$73	\$500	
P.O. Box	\$80	\$0	\$80	\$80	
Office Supplies (including postage)	\$200	\$59	\$141	\$200	
Office Equipment		\$99	-\$99	\$0	
Membership Expenses	\$120	\$187	-\$67	\$100	
Scholarship Expenses	\$120	\$0	\$120	\$60	
Fund Drive expenses	\$50	\$0	\$50	\$50	
Website	\$120	\$0	\$120	\$120	
<b>Publications</b>					
VOTER Printing	\$600	\$141	\$459	\$100	
VOTER Postage	\$350	\$46	\$304	\$50	
New Member Brochure	\$500	\$201	\$299	\$300	
Membership Directory	\$200	\$222	-\$22	\$200	
Membership Directory Postage	\$100	\$48	\$52	\$50	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,711</b>	<b>\$4,844</b>	<b>\$3,868</b>	<b>\$9,714</b>	

**PROPOSED 2016-2017 EDUCATION FUND BUDGET****Education Fund Notes**

Category	Budget 2015-2016	Budget 2016-2017
<b>Income</b>		
Transferred from Op. Budget	\$0	\$0
Retained Balance	\$3,520	\$4,055
Member Donations	\$1,000	\$1,000
Community Donations	\$600	\$600
<b>Total Education Fund Income</b>	<b>\$5,120</b>	<b>\$5,655</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Voter Services		
Voters Guide	\$900	\$900
Candidates Forum	\$100	\$2,000
Who's Who	\$0	\$0
Retained for Voter Services	\$4,020	\$2,022
<b>Public Education</b>		
Public Issue Forum	\$100	\$100
<b>Total Education Fund Expense</b>	<b>\$5,120</b>	<b>\$5,655</b>

- ◆ Negotiated contract with Sun-News for 2016 Voters Guide and Who's Who for \$900.
- ◆ Retained Balance is current Ed Fund Balance.

**TO THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE**

*MEMBER CONTRIBUTORS*  
*WITH SPECIAL APPRECIATION*

*Community Supporters*  
*With Our Gratitude*

**Operating Fund**

Lilley, Michael & Diane  
 Anderson, Kurt & Marcia  
 Brook, Kathleen  
 Burr, Alex & Marjorie  
 Christman, Sally  
 Davidson, Maggi  
 Kershner, G. Lee  
 Lashley, Sue  
 Leverett, Marnie  
 Little, William & Chris  
 Simons, Vicki  
 Young, Ellen

**Education Fund**

Benjamins, Ruth  
 Carter, Jane  
 Christman, Sally  
 Davidson, Maggi  
 Goedecke, Barbara  
 Graf-Webster, Erika  
 Hanson, Gwen  
 Jackson, Caroline  
 LaPointe, Judith  
 Lilley, Michael & Diane  
 Little, William & Christina  
 McClure-Post, Joan  
 Pelton, Clifford  
 Sanchez, Rosemarie  
 Tate, Donna  
 Dresp, Donald  
 Cain, Sue



Burbano, Sharon  
 Burn, Reed  
 Myers, Barbara & Lee  
 Pelton, Clifford  
 Phillips, Nancy  
 Sunspot Solar  
 Tate, Donna

**TIME TO PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**May 1 - June 30**

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

**LWV of Greater Las Cruces**  
**P.O. Box 8322**  
**Las Cruces, NM 88006**

## **ADOPTION OF CURRENT POSITIONS**

(See pp. 28-34, Membership Directory)

## **PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR STUDY AND ACTION: 2016-2017**

### **ADOPTION PROCESS**

When you are considering recommendations for the programs of study and action, please keep these three questions in mind:

1. Is there widespread member interest?
2. Is this a timely issue?
3. Is government action the most effective way to address this issue?

#### **Adoption Process for Recommended Program:**

A study item is recommended by the Board for consideration at Annual Meeting. All recommended items are considered and adopted by majority vote.

## **Recommended Activities by Board of Directors: 2016-2017**

*Gwendolyn Hanson*

There were no proposals for new studies for the upcoming year at the Program Planning Meeting on February 8, 2016; however, there were proposals for three new activities, which were approved March 10, 2016.

The LWVUS Board recommended that no new studies be undertaken due to the upcoming general election, but rather to focus on "Making Democracy Work" - voter registration, voter protection, and election reform, as well as money in politics and redistricting.

#### **Recommendations for Review/Revision of Existing LWVGLC Positions:**

##### **Education Committee:**

An update of the LWVGLC Position was proposed because of concerns about "increased politicization of education subsequent to changes in the State Constitution in 2003". While the League supports specific strategies aimed at giving all students the greatest possible academic success, the League also supports the identifying and adopting effective public education policy at the most fundamental organizational level: the State Constitution, the public education department, state statute and state code. These elements impact all public schools. The Education Committee anticipates initiating a study of these fundamental elements.

#### **Recommendation for New Activities:**

##### **Proposal to Institute a Standing "Youth Engagement" Committee**

Objective and rationale:

Youth Engagement for creating new voters and for attracting new, young League members is a critical issue. Young people are highly under-represented on voter roles.

## **Recommended Activities by Board of Directors** *(Continued from page 5)*

The need for Youth Engagement is constant and permanent. The purpose of this proposal is to establish a formal and permanent home within the LWVGLC for Youth Engagement activities, including voter registration, Get Out The Vote (GOTV) and education of young voters. The committee will be organized according to standard structure for LWVGLC committees with a Chair and a Secretary, will hold regularly-scheduled meetings, report monthly to the Board and to the VOTER on activities.

The mission of this committee is to establish strong and ongoing contact with people at the college and high school levels, as well as youth clubs and organizations within the community. The purpose of such contact is to increase voter registration and voting participation among young people, and to foster relationships between young people and the League.

### **Proposal to Stand Up an Ongoing Discussion Group for "Money in Politics" (MIP) Issues**

**Objective and Rationale:** The Unit meetings held about the LWVUS MIP studies were well-attended and generated considerable excitement among the membership. There were several comments that such discussions should be continued. This proposal responds to that desire. While no formal League study is proposed as part of this effort at this time, the need for future studies may evolve out of these discussions. **Scope and Activities:** The scope of the discussions within this group would include national as well as local issues related to money in politics. At the national level, several Constitutional Amendments have been proposed by various groups and individuals, including our own Senator Tom Udall. The group could review these various proposals and discuss their merit. Once the LWVUS develops a new position regarding MIP, this group would serve as the focal point for the League for advocacy on behalf of the position. On the local level the group should investigate the role that money played both in the recent City Council elections and in the prior Recall attempt of some City Councilors. This investigation could result in the League's recommending a new or revised city ordinance. This group should also serve as the focal point for coordination with Common Cause to support public campaign financing both for City Council and for County elections.



## **2016-2017**

**Is in progress**

**Please check your listing and send any changes to:**

**Yvonne Magdalena Flores**  
**Membership Director**  
**521-3980**  
**yvonnevavoom@aol.com**

## **Nominating Committee Report**

*Ellen Young, Elected Chair, Johnnie Aldrich, Elected Member,  
And Dale Yeo, Appointed Board Member*

### **For Two-Year Terms (2016-2018)**

Vice President: Sharon Shoemaker

Secretary: Ardyth Norem

Co-Directors, Voter Services: Vicki Simons and Dale Yeo

### **For One-Year Terms (2016-2017)**

Nominating Committee Chair: Johnnie Aldrich

Nominating Committee Elected member: Bonnie Votaw

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**Note:** Those remaining on the Board to complete the second year of their two-year elected term:

President: Gwen Hanson

Treasurer: Ruth Benjamins

Membership: Yvonne-Magdalena Flores

## **INTRODUCING THE PROPOSED NOMINEES (2016-2017)**



### **Sharon Shoemaker—Candidate for Vice President (2016-2018)**

Sharon is a recent transplant from Northern California where she worked as a management consultant helping large corporations and non-profits implement change in their organizations. She moved to Las Cruces in late 2013 and has been involved in efforts to improve Dona Ana County transit and is a member of the NM Fair Lending Campaign that is committed to reducing predatory lending practices. She joined the LWVGLC in 2014. As a diehard basketball fan March is her favorite time of the year. She enjoys reading, hikes with her dog Moseley and seeing sites around the US in her RV.

*(Continued on page 8)*



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**Ardyth Norem—Candidate for Secretary  
(2016-2018)**

My lifetime efforts have been directed toward embracing what is positive and good in the pursuit of greater good as I know it. My past residences include North Dakota, Minnesota, Arizona, Washington, and New Mexico. I have a BS in Secondary Education and Speech Therapy, an MA in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling, and a PhD in Social Psychology and Evaluation. My professional career includes teaching and research in prevention of alcohol and drug abuse among adolescents, and for 25 years I had a counseling and psychotherapy private practice. I was married for 23 years, have two children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



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**Vicki Simons—Candidate for Co-Director, Voter Services  
(2016-2018)**

President, 2000-2003  
Vice President, Voter Services, 2008-2010  
Nominating Committee Chair, 2011-2012  
Co-Chairman of Affordable Housing Committee, 2011-present

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**Dale Yeo—Candidate for Co-Director, Voter Services (2016-2018)**

Dale retired from a long teaching career in 1994 in the Copper Country area of Upper Michigan where she was Title 1 director and a teacher for 28 years in the Lake Linden-Hubbell Public Schools. She is proudest of developing a ground-breaking preschool program, an elementary computer lab, and later a theme-based summer school. After retirement she became a member of the Copper Country League of Women Voters with an interest in Voter Services activities and became editor of the Voters Guide and developer and webmaster of that League's site. After moving to Las Cruces in late 2006, she gravitated to the LWVGLC and worked in the same areas. She has extended her interests a bit, as time permits. In Las Cruces, Dale has a small but active pet-sitting and home maintenance/repair business. She is very involved in her church, helping with the food and clothing pantry, serving on the Missions Committee and playing in the bell choir. She is a Board member of the Dyslexia Institute of Southern New Mexico. In her spare time, she loves to hike and climb in the desert and beautiful mountains of Southeastern New Mexico, go to the movies, and attend live performances as well as explore other areas of life in her adopted home. She also travels occasionally to visit family and friends. Dale is currently not married and has one son and one grandson who live in Michigan and nephews and nieces who live in Minneapolis, where she was born and raised.





**Johnnie Aldrich—Candidate for Chair, Nominating Committee**

**(2016-2017)** Johnnie, a life-long “political junkie,” did not join the League until she moved to Las Cruces in 2002. She retired from a 30-year career teaching English and Spanish that year and suddenly had time for political activism, golf, and crossword puzzles. She also serves as an election poll worker and volunteers as a tax preparer with the Tax Aid for the Low Income and Elderly, a program sponsored by both AARP and the IRS. Johnnie has served on LWVGLC Board as Secretary and Membership Director and as Membership Director for LWVNM. She rarely misses a candidates forum and loves working voter registration events. Primarily because of teaching assignments with the University of Maryland University College Overseas Division, Johnnie has traveled in 50 countries, living for at least nine weeks in six of the 50. She’s glad to be back home in the U.S.A. and is now focused on getting to know all 50 states. Her 11 years of community college teaching in Memphis, Tennessee, gave her ample opportunity to explore the Southeast before coming to the aridity (and wind) of the Southwest and the Mesilla Valley. Only Hawaii and Michigan remain on her “bucket list” of unvisited states. Unmarried, Johnnie has no children of her own, but looks forward to annual family events in Texas that let her renew acquaintance with numerous nieces and nephews and their children.



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**Bonnie Votaw - Candidate for Elected Member, Nominating Committee (2016-2017)**

Bonnie is a native New Mexican, born and raised in Carlsbad. Even though she has lived in various other states only New Mexico can be called home. Bonnie’s career as a teacher started in California but soon transferred to Las Cruces. Many years in Las Cruces Public Schools broadened her experience in education to a range of specialties and grade levels, in both teaching and administration. She has worked as chief curriculum administrator, reading specialist and professional development specialist. Her doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction was completed at New Mexico

State University. Following several years as curriculum director in Idaho Bonnie returned to Las Cruces and topped a lifetime commitment to public education by serving on the local school board.

Before serving on the school board Bonnie joined League of Women Voters, but found she didn’t have time for both. She is happy to resume her interest in GLCLWV, where she is a member of the Education Committee. As a native New Mexican Bonnie feels it is imperative to identify and support good governance practices and to champion the right and responsibility of voting.

*With much gratitude to those who volunteered to serve.  
Thank you!*

## YEAR-END REPORTS: 2015-2016

### 2015-2016 President's Annual Report

*Gwendolyn Hanson*

I am happy to report that the state of the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces is strong, financially stable, and increasing in membership. Our League is characterized by an energetic, passionate, and knowledgeable membership that is well-integrated into the Las Cruces community. Below is a brief review of our activities for this year.

#### Priorities:

- Affordable Housing Committee- active
- Education Committee - active
- Election Procedures Committee – active
- Health Care Committee– inactive/ongoing
- Immigration Committee - active
- Metropolitan Court Committee– active
- Quality of Life & Well Being – inactive
- Water Interest Group– active

#### “Building Capacity”:

##### Speakers:

**Education** – Renay Scott, President, DACC – Workforce Development & Citizenship; Steven Sanchez, LCPS Asst. Supt. (retired) - K-12 Standardized Testing

**Health Care** – George Mychaskiw, D.O., Founding Dean & Chief Academic Officer for Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine – Impact of local health care education

**Immigration** – Judge Robert Brack – U.S. District Judge, U.S. Court, District NM – Border Judge ..Immigration

Money In Politics – Common Cause, Craig Fenske & Vicki Harrison

Water – Randy Shaw, Manager, BGNDRF – Water & Desalination

**Consensus Meetings:** Local Leagues were asked to participate in the consensus process to address the proposal by LWVUS for two studies

Constitutional Amendment Study – Kelly Burnham, Discussion leader, 15 members Participating

Money In Politics Study – Peter Ossorio , Discussion Leader, two meetings, 28 members participating, and 20 members participating, respectively.

##### Membership:

Attendance – Average 40 members

Added 10 new members

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fiesta Showcase of Priorities

Annual Legislative Breakfast – 4 legislators attended

New Member Tea & Orientation – 20 members attended

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Book Club

**League Activities:**

LWVGLC Website  
 Publication/Distribution – VOTER Newsletter (monthly)  
 Publication/Distribution - 2015-2016 Who's Who  
 Publication/Distribution – 2015 Voters Guide (Las Cruces Municipal Election)  
 Candidate Forum – Las Cruces Municipal Election Candidates  
 Publication/Distribution – VOTER wallet cards (new)  
 Publication/Distribution - VOTER INFORMATION 2016 brochures (new)  
 Sponsor – LWVGLC Education Scholarship in Honor of Bonnie Burn (administered by LCPS Foundation)  
 President – Member, External Review Committee - Dona Ana County Clerk's Office  
 President – AAUW Program - Panel Member  
 President - New Mexico Legislative Session - League Day activities

**Community Participation/Collaboration:**

Las Cruces City Council  
 Dona Ana County Bureau of Elections  
 Dona Ana County Election Advisory Council  
 Common Cause  
 ACLU  
 AAUW  
 KRWG (Local PBS TV)  
 CAFe'  
 Las Cruces Sun News - contract  
 Good Samaritan Society - contract

**LWV – New Mexico Participation 2015-2016**

State Board Meetings  
 La Palabra Newsletter – LWVGLC quarterly update  
 State Convention 2015 - attendance  
 ACTION activities/calls - participation  
 2016 NM Legislative Session League Day Activities - participation  
 Membership-Leadership Development (MLD) - consultation

**Membership Report:** *Yvonne Magdalena Flores, Director*

Membership continues to grow. Our total 2015 membership at this time last year was 81. As of March 10, 2016, membership stands at 91.

Membership development has consisted of reaching out to various segments in our community. Although members' backgrounds are many and varied, the League attracts members who are committed to building a stronger democracy by enfranchising all who are eligible to vote. Members have been drawn from different fields, including, but not limited to journalism, government service, private sector, and education. New members are active in voter registration.

Membership outreach has been achieved through the Youth Outreach Committee, formed under the auspices of Membership by working with NMSU, DACC, and LCPS high schools. Presentations have been made to students at NMSU and DACC via power point on the importance of voting which includes a brief history of suffragist movement culminating in having the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed in 1920, and charts, graphs, and data showing how the power of youth is in their hands.

This year's new member orientation was held on February 20, 2016 which was well attended.

## **Voter Services Report: *Marcia Anderson and Dale Yeo***

### **Candidates Forums**

In February 2015, LWVGLC held a Candidates Forum in the Las Cruces Public Schools Administration Auditorium for candidates for Las Cruces Public Schools Board positions. It was moderated by Bonnie Burn. Questions were taken from the audience by phone and email, and the school district publicized the event to families of students. On October 21, 2015, a Candidates Forum for the Municipal Election took place in the Las Cruces City Council Chambers to fill the positions of Mayor, three City Council Districts and Presiding Municipal Judge. It was moderated by Gwen Hanson and broadcast live on CLCTV Channel 20.

### **Voters Guide**

In October, the League issued questions to candidates in the Municipal election with responses published in a single page **Voters Guide** in the Las Cruces Sun-News on Sunday, October 18, 2015. League members distributed 4,500 additional copies of the Guide throughout the County.

### **Who's Who**

Distribution of the **Who's Who** publication continued with updates posted on the League Website [www.lwvglc.org](http://www.lwvglc.org) under the "Voter Information" tab.

### **Voter Registration**

Voter registration activities were coordinated by Marjorie Burr with sites and times set up by Rosemarie Sanchez at NMSU and DACC.

### **Legislative Breakfast**

All currently elected New Mexico Senators and Representatives from Doña Ana County were invited to the Annual Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, December 5, 2015 at Good Samaritan Society Village. Four legislators were in attendance: Representatives William Soules, Bill McCamley, Jeff Steinborn and Senator Joseph Cervantes. LWVGLC President, Gwen Hanson, presented the League's legislative priorities and the legislators shared their hopes and concerns for the upcoming session as well as responding to questions from LWVGLC members.



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## STUDY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** *Jane Carter, Chris Little, and Vicki Simons*

The LWV Affordable Housing Committee has been relatively quiet this year. Vicki Simons has continued to observe the board meetings of the Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority. Chris Little and Jane Carter continue to monitor the City Council for activities related to affordable housing.

The Committee interviewed Nicole Martinez and wrote a report on the City of Las Cruces achieving Functional Zero homelessness for veterans. The formal definition of Functional Zero is: "At any point in time, the number of Veterans experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness will be no greater than the current monthly housing placement rate for all people experiencing homelessness." Achieving this goal was made possible because of collaboration among the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, the Mayor's Office of the City of Las Cruces, the Mesilla Valley Housing Authority, and the US Veterans Affairs Department. Reaching Functional Zero is a significant accomplishment.

The committee is awaiting a draft of the Consolidated Plan for the City of Las Cruces. This focuses on housing and is prepared every five years. The report is going to reveal a good deal about the status of housing in the City and whether progress has been made in reducing the need for affordable housing rental units. In the last plan, published in 2011, it was estimated that there was a shortage of 4,700 affordable rental units. The committee will read the plan and report results to the League in a VOTER article.

The Affordable Housing Committee consists of Jane Carter, Chris Little, and Vicki Simons. We are assisted by Charlotte McCarthy, who provides important editorial and research assistance.

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### **WATER ISSUES:** *Win Jacobs*

At the program planning session, it was agreed that the study energy of LWVGCLC was not focused on water issues but that, on the basis of our position (1996, 1997, 2001) interested individuals might well wish to monitor:

- Revision, update, and implementation of 2004 State Water Plan
- Adjudication of water rights
- Twin suits now before the Special Master appointed by the U.S. Supreme Court—NM vs TX and TX vs NM regarding the taking of groundwater
- Diversion of the excess waters of the Gila
- Fracking around Otero Mesa and in northwest NM
- Cost/benefit of new water supplies
- Sustainability of water supply for new development, e.g. Santa Teresa, our East Mesa.

**ELECTION PROCEDURES:** *Ardyth Norem and Barbara Goedecke*

**The primary goal of this committee in the year 2015-2016 has been to encourage voter participation.**

In May of 2015, this committee chose to develop material in English and Spanish which would stimulate voter participation among the people of Dona Ana County. Two subcommittees were formed. Gwen Hanson, with the support of Yvonne Flores and Rosemarie Sanchez developed a brochure summarizing information needed for persons who choose to vote in Dona Ana County. Erika Graf-Webster designed a billfold sized card focused on the importance of and access to voting. Yvonne Flores developed the Spanish language version of the Vote card and Erika Graf-Webster formatted both versions for printing. The designed products were reviewed and further suggestions were offered by the committee.

5000 Vote Cards were printed in English, 3000 Vote cards in Spanish, and 400 Voter Information brochures were printed in full color. Shirley Armstrong provided a distribution list. Distribution of the bulk of the English Vote cards and about 2000 of the Spanish Vote cards has been completed. This distribution was done through individual league members who placed them with strategic agencies and persons. The Voter Information brochures have yet to be fully distributed and will be targeted to populations identified as most likely to use and benefit from them. Printing of any additional materials is on pause until developing circumstances indicate that more are needed.

In November of 2015 the committee sponsored distribution of the Vote Card, Who's Who and the Voter's Guide to participants at the Memorial Medical Flu Clinic. Sponsors of the event invited us to distribute this material again in the following year.

At the suggestion of Gwen Hanson the Election Procedures committee chose to check the methods used by the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) to register voters. Ardyth Norem and Barbara Goedecke visited all three MVD sites in January 2016. The MVD Express reported that they had no electronic registration at their site. The other two did use electronic registration although their methods did not seem to be fully identical. Subsequently, we learned that all three were now conducting consistent and optimal procedures when people apply for drivers licenses. Subsequent plans for activities of this committee have been put on hold due to the formation of a county-wide Election Advisory Committee organized within the county Bureau of Elections. Goals for our two committees are similar, but the county committee is inclusive of many other community organizations as well. Therefore the Election Procedures committee will remain on hold until a need to resume activity in the LWVGLC becomes evident.

**IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE:** *Sue Cain and Yvonne-Magdalena Flores*

*Members: Kelly Burnham, Jane Carter, Martha Duran, Judy LaPointe, Olga Pedroza, Ginny Yribia, and Gwen Hanson*

The Immigration Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis since it was established in June 2015, with the exception of the January 2016 meeting. Invited speakers were Brian Erickson, ACLU Policy Advocate; Nancy Oretskin, Esq., Southwest Asylum and Migration Institute, and Carmen Garza, U.S.D.C. Magistrate.

The immediate pressing matter has been the proposal to make significant changes to the LWVUS Immigration Position-2008 initiated by the Committee, ratified with changes by the LWVGLC Board on January 7, 2016 and ratified with additional changes by the LWVNM on January 16, 2016. The changes are to ensure that the administration and enforcement of the Position is consistent with the principles of family reunification, due process at all stages of the immigration process, and humane treatment of migrants. President Meredith Machen of LWVNM and Yvonne are applying for a Caucus at Convention and continue to work closely with Linda Wassenich from LWVTX, liaison to and member of the LWVUS Board to further this pursuit.

LWVGLC Immigration Committee hosted the LWV El Paso on February 19, 2016. Attendings were Janet Monteros, Esq., President of the El Paso League; Carol Wallace, Chair of its Immigration Committee; and Barbara Montoya, a Board member. LWVEP has joined in on our work to make changes to the LWVUS Immigration Position 2008.

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**METROPOLITAN COURT:** *Marjorie Burr- Chair, Kelly Burnham, Ellen Haltom, Judy LaPointe*

The 2015 LWV Annual Meeting voted to reopen the study of the Metropolitan Court, a position on which had been adopted in 2007. The rationale was that, when the NM Legislature in 2009 had raised the county population threshold for establishing a Metropolitan Court from 200,000 to 250,000, Dona Ana County (2010 population greater than 200,000 but less than 250,000) would likely meet that requirement in the 2020 census. Another state statute required that a county population of 200,000 required that Magistrate Court judges be licensed attorneys, so that in Dona Ana County, Magistrate Court judges are now required to be attorneys, except for those "grandfathered," having been elected before the 200,000-plus statute became effective and serving continuously since then.

The study was to determine whether the current Magistrate Court, with most judges being attorneys, was providing due process and fair trials, i.e., justice, for citizens. Committee members researched the criminal procedure manuals for Magistrate Court, interviewed the chief clerk about operations, and observed proceedings and trials in the courtrooms. Our conclusions are that the Magistrate Court in Dona Ana County is delivering justice to citizens. Our research would add another reason for preferring the Metropolitan Court system over the Magistrate Court system: that the requirement for trial *de novo* in cases appealed to the District Court is expensive and would not be required by a Metropolitan Court system.

The committee plans to remain active as observers of the lower courts in the county. There is also informal planning for the transition to a Metropolitan Court system in Dona Ana County, and the committee will keep abreast of these plans as they develop. However, it is not apparent that further observations will change any of the statements in the current position as adopted in 2007. **Therefore, we are recommending that the Metropolitan Court program study be discontinued.**



## Education Committee: *Bonnie Votaw*

The Education Position Paper ratified in 2014 continues to be active. However, we have spent time recently in dialog concerning the increased politicization of education subsequent to changes in the State Constitution in 2003.

We are wondering why the State Constitution was changed to create a Public Education Department under the Executive Branch. Does the current "Secretary of Education under the governor" system better serve us than the previous "State Superintendent/elected State School Board" system? We are wondering if the change has been helpful or harmful for public education. We think public education policy at the elemental level is a legitimate area of interest and concern for the League.

While the League supports specific strategies aimed at giving all students the greatest possible academic success, the League also supports identifying and adopting effective public education policy at the most fundamental organizational level: the State Constitution, the public education department, state statute and state code. These elements impact all public schools. The Education Committee anticipates a study of these fundamental elements.



## *CALENDAR*

April-May 2016

### April 2016

**April 2** – LWVNM Board Meeting, Santa Fe, NM

**April 7** – LWVGLC April Board Meeting, 2:00 pm, Branigan Library, Board Room

**April 9** – AAUW Program, Panel Discussion: Four Women's Groups (AAUW, LWVGLC, Soroptomists, and Progress Club) April 9th, 10:15 am., Branigan Library, Roadrunner Room.

**April 16** – LWVGLC Annual Meeting, 9:00 am -1:00 pm, Picacho Country Club

**April 21** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Book Club, *The Senator Next Door: A Memoir from the Heartland* by Amy Klobushar, 2:00 p.m., Home of Gwen Hanson

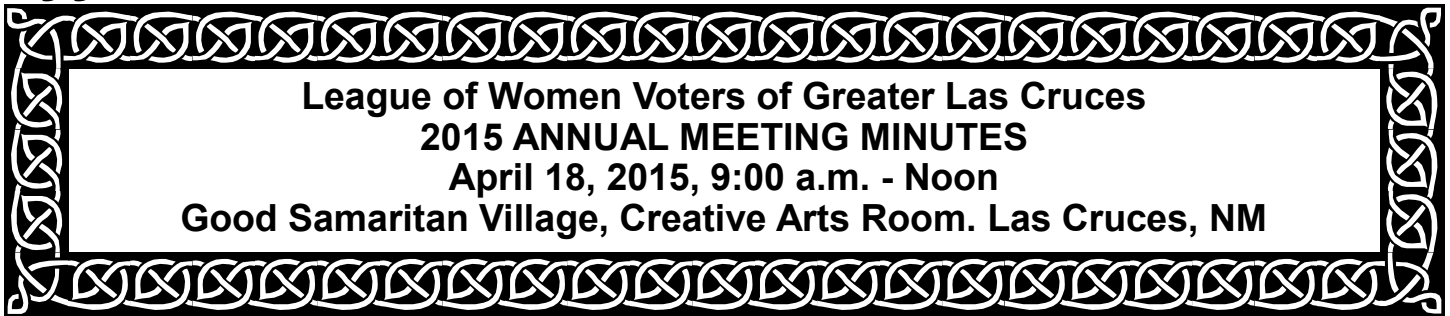
### May 2016

**May 5** - LWVGLV Board Meeting, 2:00 pm, Branigan Library Board Room

**May 9** – LWVGLC Dinner with a Leader, Frank Lopez, NGAGE, 5:30 – 7:00 pm, Good Sam's

**May 21** – LWVNM Council, Los Alamos, NM

## Appendix



**Attendees:** 29 (List on File)

**Call to Order:** President Erika Graf-Webster opened the meeting with welcoming words at 9:30 a.m. There were no guests and the new members present had been introduced at previous meetings.

NB: In the following summary of the meeting business, references to "*The VOTER*" are the edition of April 2015, The Annual Meeting 2015. The edition is available on the LWVGLC.org website for those who did not attend the meeting.

### MEETING ADMINISTRATION

**Appointment of Minutes Readers:** William Little and Ellen Young volunteered to check the minutes for accuracy. The minutes will be published in *The VOTER* announcing the 2016 Annual Meeting.

**Appointment of Parliamentarian:** Yvonne-Magdalena Flores agreed to serve as Parliamentarian.

**Business Meeting Rules:** Erika read the rules published on p. 2 of *The VOTER*. The rules were adopted without objection.

**Changes to the Agenda:** Gwen Hanson revealed that the Good Samaritan administration has made extensive changes in our activity arrangements here. We should take this opportunity to discuss these with the membership. Erika suggested that the appropriate place for this discussion would be in the "Other Annual Meeting Business" section at the end of the meeting.

**Approval of the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes** (Appendix, pp. 18-22 of *The VOTER*): Sue Cain moved that these be accepted; second by Dale Yeo. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report** (See Attached Handouts): Marcia Anderson presented the 2014-2015 Treasurer's Report in the absence of Ruth Benjamins.

The Operating Budget for the past fiscal year shows income of \$10,015, \$628 over the budget. The \$8586 of expenses was \$2,289 less than the budget anticipated. The current balance in the checking account is \$5,072.

The Education Fund, as of May 1, 2015, shows a balance of \$3590.00. Donations for the year total \$1,268.00. The major withdrawal from the Fund was \$1,000.00 to the *LAS CRUCES SUN NEWS* to pay for the printing of *THE VOTER'S GUIDE*.

**President's Report** (See pp. 10-11 of *The VOTER* for details): Erika began by thanking members for the opportunity to serve. She recounted that the experience had been instrumental in helping her to overcome her introversion because of the need to be so closely connected in the community. She reported that our financial standing is strong and that our visibility in the community has increased. Membership has increased by 10%. She praised Voter Services Directors, especially, for their efficient and thorough preparations for the three Candidates Forums during the past two years, the Voter's Guides, and the new Who's Who brochure.

The departing president also commended the work of the observer corps that monitored and reported on the activities of a variety of public governing bodies. These included the South Central Solid Waste Authority, the Ratepayer Advisory Board, the Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority, the Children's Reading Foundation, the City Council, the County Commission, ACLU's Regional Center for Border Rights, and numerous meetings of groups dealing with water issues.

Erika also pointed to activities by Study Groups that have increased our visibility both locally and statewide. She gave special commendation to the continuing efforts of the Education Study Group to monitor and focus during the past year on developments of for-profit charter schools, STEM education, and teacher evaluation procedures. As a result of those activities, LWVNM has adopted our education position as theirs. Furthermore, KRWG-TV presented two forum discussions on education and developed a programming partnership with us. Thus, LWVGLC has increased its visibility both locally and statewide.

The Voting Impediments Study Group has established a close working relationship at the County Elections Bureau. Here, too, KRWG-TV has agreed to work with us and the Bureau in the professional development of videos addressing the importance of voting and voter registration.

Our efforts to broaden our visibility in the community have also led us into attendance of meetings of CAFé, the Ocotillo Institute and its Empowerment Congress, and of the ACLU's Southern NM Immigration Task Force. Furthermore, we received congratulatory certificates and commendations for our civic work from both the City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County Commission on the occasion of the League's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. Both awards were presented at regular public meetings.

Finally, Erika pointed out that though we have done much, much remains to be done, and she asked again for more members to join the efforts of those who are currently actively engaged. She further recommended intensified efforts to attract young men and women as League members, to focus on the 66% of our county population that is Hispanic, and to "fully utilize" social media in reaching a wider public.

### **Recognitions:** Presented by Erika

1) To former president, membership director, chair of 3 study groups and advising mentor to others, and current editor of *The VOTER*, Bonnie Burn: A plaque commemorating her exceptional service and announcing that the Board of Directors has established a \$1,000 Education Scholarship at NMSU in her honor. Erika added that the scholarship already has received over \$3,500 in donations so that it can continue in future years.

In her acceptance speech, Bonnie thanked us for the huge honor of the scholarship and for our efforts to spread the League's message and principles to the public and to our elected officials. She encouraged us to continue those efforts, noting that current conditions make the League's nonpartisanship and demands for transparency in government more important than ever. She urged us to be active members and citizens, if only in writing to public officials to express our concerns. She asked that we be particularly vigilant of and continue to focus on our education system in New Mexico, especially in regard to industries that make huge profits in their attempts to influence education policy and practices so that they can sell products. Finally, she asked that we continue to educate ourselves about issues like the proposed Trans-Pacific Treaty so that we can fully participate in the discussion about it. After Bonnie finished speaking, her husband Bob revealed that the League has meant so much to Bonnie for so many years that she has had the League logo engraved on their headstones in their Ann Arbor cemetery.

2) To members of the present LWVGLC Board of Directors Johnnie R. Aldrich, Marcia Anderson, Ruth Benjamins, Roberta Gran, Gwen Hanson, Sadie Valverde, and Dale Yeo: a thank you card and gift-boxed wooden pen, engraved with the LWVGLC initials. Erika expressed deep gratitude for the support the Board members had given her during the past two years.

3) To Members Marjorie Burr, Sue Cain, Yvonne-Magdalena Flores, and Jane Asche in recognition of their individual contributions of time and effort “above and beyond the ordinary” that have been vital to our work throughout the past year. Several of the recipients spoke to thank Erika for her effective leadership during her term of office. All urged further activism by those present.

## ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS

**Adoption of the Nonpartisan Policy** (See p. 18 of the 2014-2015 Membership Directory.) Vicki Simons moved to adopt the policy as written; Oscar Vasquez Butler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adoption of Bylaws** (See pp. 20-27 of the 2014-2015 Membership Directory and p. 2 of *The VOTER*) The Proposed Bylaw Changes refer exclusively to Article VI, Section 3, Budget; Article IX Section 3b, Program, and Article XII Section 1, Amendments. In all of these, the change is from “one month” notification to the Members to “two weeks” advance notification. These changes merely correct the Bylaws so that all are consistent in these requirements.

Ardyth Norem moved to adopt the suggested changes; Sue Cain seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Gwen Hanson moved to adopt the Bylaws as revised; Sue Schmutge seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Marcia Anderson presented the next two items in the absence of Treasurer Ruth Benjamins.

**Adoption of the 2015-2016 Operating Budget** (See p. 3 of *The VOTER*): The Proposed Budget for 2015-2016 anticipates income of \$9,095 and expenses of the same amount. New items in the budget include the donations to the Bonnie Burn Scholarship Fund and the added expense of the charges to Pay Pal for using that service in registering new members. Other new items include \$250 to pay expenses for our sponsorship of an anticipated Public Symposium and \$300 to cover Board expenses like the microphone we’re using today, information packets for legislators, etc. Additionally, the funds for the individual study groups have been collected as a single item of \$800. Ardyth Norem moved to accept the Proposed Operations Budget as presented; Yvonne-Magdalena Flores seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Adoption of the 2015-2016 Education Fund Budget** (See p. 4 of *The VOTER*): In presenting the proposed 2015-2016 Education Fund Budget, Marcia noted especially the total income of \$4,800 from donations last year and the \$5,120 that we hope will be the total income at the end of the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Erika reported the results of her inquiry to LWVUS regarding the tax deductibility of contributions to the Burn Education Scholarship as positive; i.e., *because these contributions actually are passed through to the Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation, which is a 501c3 organization, the donations are tax deductible.* Christina Little pointed out that the Board should be aware that the Education Fund might also be used to support our activities in community outreach. Vicki Simons moved that the Proposed 2015-2016 Education Fund Budget be accepted as presented. Susan Schmutge seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Annual Membership Dues:** Our Bylaws require that the membership at the Annual meeting approve the membership dues for the following year. The Board has decided that the fees should remain the same, i.e., \$60 for individuals, \$30 for each additional household member. Bylaw policy also states that student members and half-year members pay \$30. Rosemarie Sanchez moved that the present dues structure remain; Sue Cain seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Proposed Program for Study and Action:****Adoption of Revised and New Positions** (*The VOTER*, pp. 5 & 6):

1) **Education Position:** Presenter Sue Cain explained that even though the position was revised in 2014 (pp. 29-31, Membership Directory) further changes are needed as a result of the Study Group's investigation of for-profit charter schools and STEM education in New Mexico. The following changes were presented in *The VOTER*, p. 5:

1. **Opening Paragraph:** Insert between the first and third sentences: *The League opposes the use of public education funds to support for-profit alternative options for parental choice within the public education system.*

2. **Section 1 – Innovative Practices for Student Success:** Delete Bullet 2 because it was replaced by #1 above.

3. **Section 3 – Evaluation of Teachers, Students and School Performance:**

**Bullet 2:** Re-word to read: *Student testing to be used for the purpose of enabling teachers to create timely teaching strategies for the best possible student academic achievement outcomes.*

**Bullet 4:** Re-word to read: *Evaluation of teachers based on achievement of the goals in their performance evaluation plan, significant classroom observations, and some consideration of the overall student academic progress in their classroom.*

4. **Section 4: Finances and Funding**

**Bullet 1:** Re-word to read: *A state budget process that considers public education as the highest priority.*

**Bullet 3:** Delete because it has been addressed in the opening paragraph (See #1 above).

Shirley Armstrong moved to adopt these revisions to the Education Position; Dale Yeo seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Election Procedures Position** (Revised 2015) Presenter Ardyth Norem explained that

1) The **Voting Impediments Study** concluded with a presentation of the findings at a Unit Meeting on December 15, 2014. Because these findings involved the election process, there was consensus that an additional statement be added to the current Election Procedures position (See Bullet 1 below).

2) **Update of Election Procedures Position:** Because the position had not been reviewed since 2003, a committee was convened on August 20, 2014, that resulted in the revised position below, which is submitted for member approval:

*The League supports:*

*Increased efforts to inform voters of the importance of voting by*

*participating in special Get Out the VOTE campaigns in ~~election years~~*

*developing and distributing educational materials that explain the voter registration process and why voting is important*

*collaborating with community government and non-partisan organizations for the purpose of encouraging voter registration and voting.*

*Clarification and simplification of options for early and absentee voting procedures. Election officials should send clear notice to the public of the dates on which early voting or absentee voting begins and ends and provide publicity about the location and use of Voting Convenience Centers.*

*Cooperation and coordination among city, county and school district officials to establish consolidated election dates and the use of common polling places such as the Voting Convenience Centers.*

*Implementation of mail ballot elections locally for small elections in order to reduce costs and increase voter participation.*

In discussion of the suggested changes, Roberta Gran questioned the expression “in election years” (see strike-out in the first bullet above) as perhaps too constraining. Cathy Mathews asked whether the study had included discussion of online voting. It did not.

Barbara Goedecke moved that “in election years” be removed; Ellen Young seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Yvonne-Magdalena Flores moved that the position revision be accepted as amended; Shirley Armstrong seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Quality of Life** (2015, New Position) Presenter: Dale Yeo

This two-year study was concluded during a Unit Meeting on February 23, 2015. Attendees reached consensus and the following position resulted:

*League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces supports applying a quality of life and community wellbeing approach when local government engages in planning, development, assessment, and policy decisions. “Quality of life” is defined as the overall wellbeing of individuals and societies that results from maximizing human capacities and function so that life is led in a way one values.*

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

- *Action by government agencies and community organizations that actively pursue social, economic, and environmental initiatives that improve the quality of life for community residents.*
- *Utilizing a comprehensive quality of life approach that includes applying well-defined measures and that takes into account the diversity and inequality in the community when local government officials undertake comprehensive planning efforts.*

*Actions that increase civic engagement, particularly voter participation, in the community.*

Marjorie Burr and Marcia Anderson both commented on the awkwardness of Bullet #2. Sue Cain moved that it be rewritten; Sue Schmugge seconded; motion carried.

Revision: *Utilizing a comprehensive quality of life approach that includes applying well-defined measures. When local officials undertake comprehensive planning efforts, they should take into account the diversity and inequalities in the community.*

Yvonne-Magdalena Flores moved that the position be accepted as revised; Shirley Armstrong seconded; motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF CURRENT POSITIONS** (See pp. 28-35 Membership Directory)

Ardyth Norem moved to adopt the Positions that currently appear in the Membership Directory, pp. 28-35, including the revisions accepted above. Oscar Vasquez Butler seconded; motion carried.

**PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR STUDY AND ACTION – 2015-2016**

**Adoption Process for Recommended Program:**

The Board recommends study items for consideration at Annual Meeting. Three criteria are paramount: 1) Is there widespread member interest? 2) Is this a timely issue? 3) Is government action the most effective way to address this issue? All recommended items are considered and adopted by majority vote.

**RECOMMENDED PROGRAM BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**Update OF THE METROPOLITAN COURT POSITION (2007, p. 34, Membership Directory)** Presenter: Marjorie Burr

The study committee responsible for the current position suggests that in light of recent developments the original committee undertake a review and update of this position.

Two important changes have occurred: (1) The criterion in state law for establishment of a Metropolitan Court (to replace magistrate and municipal courts) was a county population of 200,000. The NM Legislature has raised that number to 250,000. (2) Magistrate judges are required to be attorneys in Class A counties (200,000 plus) under a separate statute. The League's current position recommends that magistrate judges be lawyers, and that criterion has been met.

The metropolitan courts, however, have other requirements that differentiate them from magistrate courts. For example, the magistrate court is not a "court of record" the Metropolitan Court is.

Would justice be more effectively served if Doña Ana County had a Metropolitan Court? Does a Metropolitan Court offer more possibility for innovation as needed in individual case situations? Do magistrate courts offer due process and a fair trial? The study committee seeks to involve our members in magistrate court observation in an attempt to answer these questions.

Erika reminded attendees that the Board has accepted this study but a 50% vote by the attendees is needed for official recognition. Marcia Anderson moved to accept the study; Roberta Gran seconded; motion carried.

**NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD**

**Adoption Process for Not Recommended Program.** Erika explained that 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. There must be a formal motion to accept and the motion must be rejected if membership does not want to adopt the study.

**1. Study Factors (including Voter Suppression that Hinder Voter Turnout in Doña Ana County.** The Voter Impediments Study identified the factors negatively affecting voter registration numbers, but did not look at the voting process itself. Objects: Identify the factors that hinder registered voters from actually voting. Identify possible remedies. Identify, if possible, the prevalence of these factors (e.g., what percentage of the voting population is affected). Develop possible remedies, so that voter turnout is increased.

**Board voted to NOT RECOMMEND** *due to lack of interest by members to work on it.*

Marjorie Burr moved that the study be adopted; William Little seconded.

In the discussion following the motion, William Little reminded attendees that the study involves state laws and that such an investigation probably should be done by LWVNM. The motion did not carry.

**2. Study the Effect of Different Levels of Government on the Major Factors that Determine Quality of Life**

Objectives: Using the results from the Quality of Life Study Group, identify the major factors that constitute quality of life for Doña Ana County residents. For each major quality of life factor (e.g., education, health, transportation, etc.) determine the extent of the effect on that factor of each of the following government entities: federal, state, county, city/town/village. (NOTE: The intent is to focus on the state and the city or county.) Determine which level of government has the major influence for each factor. Work with Voter Services to develop targeted advertising for major elections, community elections, school board elections, etc., based on highlighting the importance of voting in elections for offices that have the major influence on each QoL factor.



**Board voted to NOT RECOMMEND** *due to lack of interest by members to work on it.*

William Little moved that the study be adopted; Cathy Mathews seconded.

In the discussion that followed it was suggested that the proposed study is complex and broad enough that it is simply beyond the resources of LWVGLC. Motion did not carry.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ardyth Norem, Chair of the Nominating committee presented the names of those who accepted the committee's request to run. Other members of the committee are Sue Cain, Elected Member, and Marcia Anderson, Appointed Board Member.

#### **For Two-Year Terms (2015-2017)**

President: Gwen Hanson

Treasurer: Ruth Benjamins

Director, Membership: Yvonne-Magdalena Flores

#### **For One-Year Term (2015-2016)**

Vice-President: Ardyth Norem

Nominating Committee Chair: Ellen Young

Nominating Committee Member: Johnnie Aldrich

**NOTE:** Those remaining on the Board to complete the second year of their two-year elected term:

Secretary: Sadie Valverde

Co-Directors of Voter Services: Marcia Anderson and Dale Yeo

Erika asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she suggested that acceptance of the nominees be done by acclamation. Members agreed. Erika passed the presidential gavel to Gwen.

Gwen's first act as President was to present a thank-you gift from the Board to Erika, a gavel mounted on a plaque expressing gratitude for her efficient leadership during her two-year term. Gwen then expressed her willingness to serve. Reminding attendees that she has been a League member for only three years, she asked for the "counsel and support" of more experienced League members during her term of office. She presided over the closing activities of the meeting.

### **Other Annual Meeting Business:**

**LWVNM Convention Delegates:** Gwen indicated that she and Ardyth would attend the May Convention. We are entitled to five delegates, but none of the attendees indicated that they would go. Invitation is still open.

**Initiation of Contract with Good Sam:** Gwen explained that changes in the administration of Good Samaritan Village, the venue that we have used for many years for our regular monthly Lunch With a Leader and smaller meetings, have resulted in our usage being based on a written, formal contract. The lunch cost is raised to \$12.00 per person. Gwen explained that investigation of other possible venues revealed that \$12 is a very reasonable organizational price for luncheons nowadays. Cost of the use of a room without food service is now \$40 per day, \$10 per hour.

Discussion ensued:

Will dues be raised as a consequence? Answer: No. Lunch payment is separate from dues. William Little pointed out that this should be a Board decision. Gwen explained that she wanted to get member input before bringing this to the Board.

Sue Cain moved that we sign the contract if the Board decides that we should; Yvonne-Magdalena Flores seconded; motion carried.

**Directions to the Board:**

1) Sue Cain suggested that because of the importance of immigration issues in our community, a committee of 3-4 members be formed to keep the membership informed about the issue. After studying the LWVUS Position on Immigration, the committee might want to propose a GLC position on the topic. Whether we do will depend upon how the LWVUS position applies to our local situation.

2) William Little observed: I have noticed, over the past few years, a drift in the language of local League positions as they are adopted or revised. Positions should be, and have been, clear statements of principles and values. More recently they have become endorsements of current shibboleths or denigrations of current hobgoblins. This language change will limit both the utility and the impact of the positions. As the board considers future positions or position changes, it would be well to keep these considerations in mind.

3) Marjorie Burr asks the Board to "consider arranging time and place of meetings to better accommodate people who work." She explained that this might be a way of increasing both membership and attendance at meetings.

4) Barbara Goedecke asks that the Board evaluate the effectiveness of the Legislative Action Committee in the light of so few active participants. She asks whether the committee is needed since other organizations now fulfill the same function; i.e. issuing Action Alerts on League issues so that members can call or email legislators. If the committee is continued, what can be done to encourage others to sign up?

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1) Gwen would like the newly elected Board to meet for a Mini-Retreat at her house, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on May 7 to discuss plans and the calendar for the coming year.

2) Gwen reminded attendees of the May 11 Lunch With a Leader, here in the Good Samaritan Creative Arts Room, at 11:30 a.m. The speaker will be Dr. Renay Scott, President of Doña Ana Community College.

Gwen asked if others had announcements. There being none,

William Little moved to adjourn; Rosemarie Sanchez seconded; motion carried at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Johnnie R. Aldrich



## Notes

### **The VOTER**

Volume 47, Issue 8— February 2016  
Usually Published Monthly

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

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**Vice President & Events  
and Speakers**  
Ardyth Norem

**Secretary** - Sadie Valverde

**Treasurer** - Ruth Benjamins

**Director, Membership**  
Yvonne-Magdalena Flores

**Co-Directors, Voter Services**  
Marcia Anderson &  
Dale Yeo

**Nominating Committee**  
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Elected Member: Johnnie Aldrich

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### **Program for Study & Action**

**Affordable Housing**  
Vicki Simons -522-4813  
Christina Little-373-1882

**Education**  
Ruth Benjamins - 527-0204

**Election Procedures**  
Ardyth Norem - 522-0780  
Barbara Goedecke - 522-0323

**Health Care**  
Vicki Simons - 522-4813

**Immigration**  
Sue Cain - 647-8250  
Yvonne-Magdalena Flores 521-3980

**Metropolitan Court**  
Marjorie Burr - 522-2528

**Quality of Life (Happiness)**  
Cynthia Pelak - (575) 496-3170

**Water Issues**  
Win Jacobs - 521-9331

**Action Committee**  
Barbara Goedecke - 522-0323



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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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