

2013 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 20, 2013, 9 a.m. - Breakfast Meeting Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions	
Changes to the Agenda Al	I
Approval of the 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes Martha Durar	
Treasurer's Report (Handouts at Meeting) Erika Graf-Webste	
Report from the President Bonnie Burr	1
Annual Meeting Business	
Adoption of the Nonpartisan Policy Bonnie Burr	
Adoption of Bylaws	
 Adoption of the 2013-2014 Operating Budget Erika Graf-Webste Adoption of the 2013-2014 Education Budget Erika Graf-Webste 	
Proposed Program for Study and Action Marjorie Burn	
Adoption of current Statement of Positions	•
 Adoption of Recommended/Non-Recommended 	
Program for Study and Action	
 Prioritizing Ongoing Program for Study and Action 	
 Report of the Nominating Committee and Election Roberta Grar 	1

Other Annual Meeting Business

- Identification of delegates for LWVNM Biennial Convention (May 18-19, Las Cruces)
- Direction to the Board from Members
- Announcements

Adjournment

This meeting will start with a buffet breakfast at 9 a.m.
Cost: \$10 - RSVP by Monday (April 8, 2013)
Marjorie Burr, 522-2528
Email: burrmmb@aol.com

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The VOTER

Volume 43, Issue 11 - April 2013 Published Monthly

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

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

President - Bonnie Burn

Vice President & Program Erika Graf-Webster

Secretary - Martha Duran

Treasurer - Ruth Benjamins

Director, Membership Roberta Gran

Co-Directors, Voter Services

Gwen Hanson Gracia Class

Nominating Committee

(Open), Chair Judith Scott, Elected Member Roberta Gran, Board Member

STUDY GROUPS

Affordable Housing

Vicki Simons - 522-4813 Chris Little - 573-1882

Education

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

Impediments to Voting in Doña Ana County

Johnnie Aldrich - 522-1544 Roberta Gran - 650-8490

Mental Health Services in Doña Ana County

Becky Beckett - 522-8171 Mickey Curtis - 532-5655

Metropolitan Court

Marjorie Burr - 522-2528

ACTION COMMITTEE

Jane Asche - 532-8087 Roberta Gran - 650-8490

Web Master

Dale Yeo - 405-7530 daleyeo@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor

Bonnie Burn - 526-0013 burnb@comcast.net

Appointment of a Parliamentarian: William Little

Business Meeting Rules:

• Only members will have the privilege of the floor.

- No person may speak twice until all members who wish to speak have spoken.
- Motions with wording important to the minutes will be submitted in writing to the secretary.
- Adoption of recommended 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.

League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces 2012 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES (pp 2-6) April 14, 2012, 9:00 a.m. Good Samaritan Village, Creative Arts Room, Las Cruces, NM

Attendees: 26 (List on file)

Welcome: President Bonnie Burn introduced the attendees with a brief personal statement by her and by them.

Call to Order: 9:30 a.m.

Preliminary Business Matters

- Appointment of Minutes Recorders: Martha Duran and Roberta Gran
- Appointment of Readers: Gwen Hanson and Johnnie Aldrich
- Appointment of Parliamentarians: Marjorie Burr and Marnie Leverett
- The Business Meeting Rules, found on page 2 of the *Annual Meeting Voter*, were adopted on a motion by Win Jacobs, seconded by Ellen Haltom and passed. For voting purposes, a simple majority of those present is 14, and a two-thirds requirement is 18.

Changes to Agenda: No changes.

Approval of 2011 Annual Meeting Minutes: Adopted as written on a motion by Erika Graf-Webster, seconded by Barbara Goedecke, and passed unanimously by membership.

Treasurer's Report: Ruth Benjamins presented a final financial statement for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-2012. Although Quicken Accounting software program has been implemented this year, it continues to need refinement before an understandable final report can be printed.

Members received an Excel spreadsheet report showing the information gathered from Quicken. For FY 2011-12 the Operating Fund shows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Checkbook Balance	\$4,500	\$3,968	
Total Income	\$9,077	\$9,851	\$774
Total Expenses	\$9,077	\$6,416	\$2,661
Overall Total		\$3,435	

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2012 Annual Meeting Minutes (Continued from page 2)

The treasurer reported that the League's certificate of deposit was cashed at maturity and the balance, \$1,084.83, remains in the League's checking account. The Board will be discussing how to invest it at it first Board Meeting. A Fund Raising Committee has been formed. Through its efforts and through the generosity of Terry Miller and Charlotte Lipson, a community email fund drive successfully solicited contributions from League members (\$1,854) and community supporters (\$2,690).

The treasurer next reported on the Education Fund. For FY 2011-12 the Education Fund shows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income	\$2,560	\$7,295	\$4,735
Total Expense	\$2,560	\$7,295	\$4,735

Again, through the efforts of the newly formed Fund Raising Committee and the efforts of Terry Miller and Charlotte Lipson, contributions of \$1,150 and \$1,845 from members and community supporters, respectively were raised. These funds will be used to pay for printing costs of a 16-page *Voters Guide* required for the 2012 General Election (\$4,500). Additionally, included in the Education Fund Balance is anticipated income from our participation in the Lifestyle 2012 Expo (\$2,000) and already received revenue (\$23.25) from the Healthy U forum.

To a question, whether members will receive a copy of the *Voters Guide* through the mail, the answer was no. Each of us must look for the Guide in *The Bulletin*. In the past three years, community supporters received a copy through the mail because they made a contribution to the League. Because the *Las Cruces Sun News* has not printed the *Voters Guide* for several years, Board members were reminded to return to the request for proposal (RFP) process.

<u>Motion:</u> Dale Yeo made a motion to approve the report as presented. Judy LaPointe seconded and members approved the motion unanimously.

Report from the President:

- Healthy U at LC Convention Center. Home-based businesses paid to attend and were asked to donate to an assigned non-profit "partner." League received \$23.25.
- SW Senior Lifestyle 2012 Expo was a very successful event. The Straw poll was a highlight with 400 votes cast. The two winning issues were Jobs and Budget Deficit. Erika Graf-Webster suggested we do this at other events. We made about \$80-\$90 from sale of bracelets. We registered 32 voters. We presented three information sessions that were poorly attended, and we think that participants were more interested in interactive activities.
- LWVUS Privatization Study: A Unit meeting was held on March 20, and member consensus results will be published in the May *Voter*.
- Las Cruces Campaign Finance Guidelines: The city is forming a committee to review and make recommendations about local campaign finance guidelines. Erika Graf-Webster (for the League) and Alex Burr (for Common Cause) will participate on the committee when members are appointed by the Council at its first meeting in May. Work will be completed between May and November, 2012
- LWVUS has adopted the theme for the coming year, "Power the Vote." The voter registration component of our League's voter services already is focusing on registering or helping voters with their registration information. The following are the results from February 4-April 14, 2012, where 136 voters were helped:

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26 – Health U Event (Feb 4) 36 – Lifestyle 2012 Expos (March 23, 24)
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62 – Mayfield High School (Apr 9) 12 – Camp Hope (Apr 10)

"Get Out the Vote" was a training opportunity sponsored by CAFé (Comunidades en Acción y de Fé). The focus was on voter registration, canvassing, and telephoning voters who are eligible but vote infrequently. Jane Asche and Bonnie Burn attended.

• The annual J. Paul Taylor Symposium about Social Justice was held on March 25 and 26. The focus

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2012 Annual Meeting Minutes (Continued from page 3)

was local quality of life. Jane Asche and Bonnie Burn attended. Meetings will be held throughout the county during the year, and 2010 Census data are available to help describe the issues faced by county residents.

- Speaking Engagements: Bonnie Burn spoke about the women's suffrage movement and the League at the United Way Community Agencies Group (April 4), and at a government class at Mayfield High (April 9).
- Senator Jeff Bingaman was the keynote speaker at the NMSU Jeffrey E. and Mary T. Brandon distinguished Lecture Series on April 11. Seven League members attended.

Special Member Recognition: completed at beginning of meeting. It was interesting to note that six past-presidents attended: Marnie Leverett, Vicki Simons, Win Jacobs, Kathy Brook, Barbara Goedecke and Marjorie Burr.

2012 Annual Meeting Business

Adoption of the Nonpartisan Policy: Members reviewed the nonpartisan policy on pp. 18 and 19, 2011-12 Membership Directory. A question arose about board member participation in election activities. Paragraph 3 of the policy clearly identifies that the president, voter services director, chairs of candidates forums, voter registration chair, and editor of the *Voters Guide* may not be active. Members who choose to run for elected office must resign from the board. Members wishing to circulate petition(s) must receive approval of the board to circulate them inside a League meeting; without Board permission petitions may be only circulated outside of a League meeting. At candidates' forum(s), individuals running for office must leave campaign information outside the forum room, and campaign T-shirts may not be worn inside the forum room.

Motion: Win Jacobs moved and Johnnie Aldrich seconded the motion to readopt the nonpartisan policy as written. Members approved the motion unanimously.

Adoption of 2012-2013 Budgets: Presenter was Erika Graf-Webster

- Operating Fund Budget: The proposed budget appears on pp. 6 and 7 of the 2012 Annual Meeting Voter. The budget balances with total income of \$8,873 and total expenses of \$8,873. Member dues projected at \$5,160 based on a membership of 80 individual plus 12 Second Household members. National per member payment (PMP) in this budget assumes a \$1 increase to \$31.
- Education Fund Budget: The proposed budget appears on p. 7 of the 2012 Annual Meeting Voter. The income and expense balance at \$6,895. The gain of donations from members (\$1,150) and community supporters (\$2,035) results from an appeal by Terry Miller and Charlotte Lipson. During FY2012-2013, we will incur a large expense (\$4,500) to publish a 16-page 2012 General Election Voters Guide. Education fund money that is carried over from one year to the next to support future activities is shown in Retained for Voter Services, a budget category in Expenses.
 - Discussion Note: The Bulletin has been most generous to the League. In the last few years, the
 owner, David McCollum, has solicited our business. He has negotiated affordable prices and has
 printed our Who's Who free of charge. Members encouraged the Board to return to the practice of
 submitting requests for proposal after the already negotiated printing of the 2012 General Election
 Voters Guide is completed.

<u>Motion</u>: Ellen Haltom made a motion to accept both proposed budgets. Win Jacobs seconded and members approved the motion unanimously.

Proposed Program for Study and Action: Marjorie Burr presented this segment of the meeting.

 Adoption of current Statement of Positions. Marjorie read the titles of our current completed studies, pp. 28-33 in the 2011-12 Membership Directory. Additionally two new study positions, "Affordable Housing in Doña Ana County," and "Public Education in the City of Las Cruces," approved by the

2012 Annual Meeting Minutes (Continued from page 4)

Board during 2011-2012 and appearing on pp. 5 and 8 of the *2012 Annual Meeting Voter* were presented for adoption.

Motion: Jane Carter moved adoption of the current position statements as written. Win Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- Adoption of Recommended Program for Study and Action: "A Study of the Impediments to Voter Participation in Doña Ana County" was recommended by League members at the Program Planning meeting in February and approved by the Board. In discussion, it was thought that this study is appropriate now because voter turnout for elections is relatively low in Doña Ana County. Some statistical data indicate that there are more minority voters who are eligible to vote but are not registered. During the discussion, Marjorie Burr raised the issue of developing a video about the voting process for high school students who will be voting for the first time. Cynthia Pelak offered to help and suggested that some of her students at NMSU might develop this as a special project. There was mentioned that the Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections was initiating a poll worker training video, and this video also might be used to help first-time voters understand the voting process.
 Motion: Erika Graf-Webster moved to adopt the proposed program for study and action. Sharon Burbano seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Adoption of Non-Recommended Program for Study and Action: "A Study of Immigration Issues
 in Doña Ana County" was recommended for League members at the February Program Planning
 meeting. At its monthly meeting, Board members approved having this study go forward to members
 at Annual Meeting as a non-recommended study.

<u>Motion</u>: Judy LaPointe moved that we discuss this program item. Win Jacobs seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

In discussion, it was noted that there are many local groups working on issues specifically relevant to local immigrants and the League often collaborates with them. There was concern about having enough League members volunteer as committee members for the study. The LWVUS studied immigration during November/December 2007; local Leagues reached consensus, and a new position was developed and adopted by the LWVUS Board. To date, all of the action taken in the community has been based on that position.

Win Jacobs called the question.

<u>Motion</u>: Win Jacobs moved to adopt the board's recommendation that the study of immigration issues in Doña Ana County not be adopted for study and action. Sharon Burbano seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

- Prioritizing Ongoing Program for Study and Action: Members were asked to prioritize issues
 among our adopted positions for focus during the upcoming fiscal year 2012-2013. Our recently
 completed studies about public education and affordable housing and voter registration and
 participation in the election process were mentioned. Members agreed to leave it to the Board to
 identify and prioritize issues as they arise.
- **Nominating Committee**: In the absence of Vicki Simons and Sadie Valverde, chair and elected member, respectively, Bonnie Burn read the slate of offices. A request for nominees from the floor revealed no new nominees.

<u>Motion</u>: Dale Yeo moved that the slate of officers as presented be elected. Marnie Leverett seconded, and the motion passed.

Elected were:

Vice President & Program Secretary

Erika Graf Webster (2012-2014) Martha Duran (2012-2014) Page 6 The VOTER

2012 Annual Meeting Minutes (*Continued from page 5*)

Co-Directors, Voter Service Gracia Class & Gwen Hanson (2012-2014)

Treasurer Ruth Benjamins (2012-2013)
Nominating Committee Nancy Phillips, Chair, (2012-2013)

Sadie Valverde, Elected member (2012-2013)

Other 2012 Annual Meeting Business

LWVNM Council: The biennial meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, 2012, at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul, Albuquerque from 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Those wishing to attend should contact Bonnie Burn. There is money budgeted for delegate expenses. The President (or alternate) and one delegate may attend.

<u>LWVUS Convention</u>: This biennial meeting is being held at the Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C., June 8-12 2012. Because our membership is below 100, we may send one delegate. \$1300 is budgeted to partially cover expenses. Again, let Bonnie Burn know if you wish to go.

Directions to the Board:

- Erika Graf-Webster asked that we have at least one afternoon meeting perhaps a social event, with light hors d'oeuvres, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.
- Win Jacobs asked the board to continue its focus on each of the League's study issues.
- Institute for Engaging the Community is looking at how we can stimulate interest and action in community.
- Jane Carter went to the National League website and was disappointed that there is nothing for League members about issues with which LWVUS are currently involved. Bonnie Burn advised members to sign up for the Leaders' Update, and will publish the process for getting on the LWVUS email lists.

<u>Announcement</u>: Peter Ossorio announced that there will be another Immigration Conference in summer 2012 sponsored by NMSU

Motion: Gracia Class moved that we adjourn the meeting. Judy LaPointe seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Duran Roberta Gran, Second Recorder

Administrative Reports for Fiscal Year 2012-2013

TREASURER'S REPORT - Erika Graf-Webster (In the absence of Ruth Benjamins)

The treasurer's report will be distributed at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Bonnie Burn

State of the League Report for 2012-2013, ending April 30, 2013

2013 ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS

NONPARTISAN POLICY

(2012-13 Membership Directory, pp. 18-19)

BYLAWS

(2012-13 Membership Directory, pp. 20-27) Christina Little, Reviewer

The local League bylaws were reviewed and compared with the state and national bylaws. Several issues were discussed with the President. My recommendation is that our local bylaws both reflect current circumstances and comply with national bylaws; and therefore should be re-adopted at Annual Meeting as written.

Any omissions in the local bylaws are adequately addressed in either the state or national versions, both of which are available for local League use.

PROPOSED PROGRAM for 2013-2014

Marjorie Burr, Facilitator

CURRENT POSITIONS

(See pp. 28-35, 2012-13 Membership Directory)

PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAM FOR 2013-2014

Recommended Program for Study and Action

A Study of Impediments to Voter Participation in Doña Ana County.

The Study Committee is completing its first year of study and requests an extension of one year to complete it work.

During the first year, the Committee completed an online literature search and developed a survey questionnaire that seeks to determine why people do not register to vote. The Hispanic voters in Doña Ana County will be the first minority group to be surveyed. The survey questions have been completed; a version approved by the Board has

been revised, and has been reviewed by Sarah Nolan, director, CAFÉ, who is collaborating with the League. The survey will be distributed in English and Spanish. League member Gracia Class translated the survey into Spanish with reviews by Olga Pedroza and Vicki Gaubeca. A list of places to distribute the survey was compiled and will be distributed before the League year ends on April 30.

During the second year, the committee will analyze data from the Hispanic survey and proceed to survey and analyze data from African American and Asian voters in Doña Ana County. A final report will be written, unit meetings held, and a consensus or concurrent position will be developed for approval by the Board and then by members at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Recommended: Extension of this study for an additional year is proposed by the Board as a recommended program for study and action.

A Study of the Pursuit of Happiness in Las Cruces

The pursuit of happiness was declared to be one of the unalienable rights of all men, along with only two others, life and liberty, in the Declaration of Independence. To promote the general welfare was one of the reasons stated in the preamble as a justification for drawing up the Constitution for the governing of the United States. So this topic—pursuit of happiness or promoting the general welfare—is a legitimate study item for LWVGLC, at least the founders of the republic thought it must be amendable to government action.

We are not without precedent for this study. From the Buddhist Kingdom of Bhutan to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to the province of Alberta and City of Edmonton in Canada to Great Britain to Maryland Vermont, government officials are considering the topic. Locally groups are working on it, including the Quality of Life Initiative funded by a Kellogg Foundation grant, and the Camino Real Project.

Scope of the Study

 identify the indicators of happiness or good quality of life in Las Cruces and its surrounding communities. (Continued on page 10) Page 8 The VOTER

Proposed 2013-2014 Operations Budget

(Assuming 67 full plus 9 household members)

Category	Budget 2012-2013	Budget 2013-2014
Retained Cash on Hand CD+Interest	\$5,049 \$0	\$6,887 \$1,025
CD Interest (Value 1,083.84) Cashed out 1/17/12)	\$24	\$0
Income (Operational) Members Dues Voter Printed Subscriptions Contributions Members Community Fund Raising Total Operations Income	\$5,160 \$72 \$1,000 \$500 \$2,141 \$8,873	\$4,290 \$60 \$1,000 \$500 \$2,262 \$8,112
Per Member Payment LWVUS LWVNM Meetings and Conventions LWVUS Convention (2014) LWVUS Council (2013) LWVNM Convention (2014) League Day at Legislature Local Annual Meeting Legislative Breakfast Study Groups Education Committee Affordable Housing Comm. Voting Impediments Office Expenses Telephone P.O. Box Office Supplies (incl Postage) Membership Expenses Fund Drive Expense Website Domain Website Server Website Upgrade Publications Voter Printing Voter Postage	\$2,666 \$1,032 \$1,300 \$0 \$350 \$350 \$300 \$100 \$150 \$100 \$450 \$75 \$300 \$300 \$100 \$100 \$350 \$350	\$2,186 \$846 \$650 \$300 \$325 \$100 \$300 \$100 \$100 \$100 \$100 \$100 \$100
New Member Brochure Membership Directory Member Directory Postage Total Operating Expenses	\$350 \$200 \$150 \$8,873	\$0 \$200 \$150 \$8,112

Operations Budget Notes

- 1. Member Dues: \$4,020= Individual 67@\$60 \$ 270 = 2nd Household 9@\$30 \$4.290
- 2. Subscription to The VOTER is available for \$12 per year.
- Per Member Payment to LWVUS is budgeted at \$31 per full member, \$15.50 per 2nd household member.
- 3. Per Member Payment to LWVNM is \$12 per full member, \$6 per 2nd household member.
- LWVUS Convention (2014): Registration is \$335. Planning for 2 delegates - Dallas, Tx. Remainder of expenses for Convention will be in Budget for FY 2014-15.
- LWVNM Convention budget for registration fee for 5 delegates
- 6. LWVNM Council Registration Fee
- 7. Legislative Breakfast \$10 for 10 Legislators.
- 8. Web Site: We are researching a redesign of our web site and are budgeting an approximate amount for buying new software.

Membership Dues Renewal (2013-2014)

May 1- June 30, 2013

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

PROPOSED 2013-2014 EDUCATION FUND BUDGET

Category	Budget 2012-2013	Budget 2013-2014
Income Transferred from Op. Budget Retained Balance Member Donations Community Donations	\$500 \$4,600 \$500 \$500	\$0 \$1,682 \$1,800 \$1,000
Total Education Fund Income	\$6,100	\$4,482
Expenses Voter Services Voters Guide Candidates Forum Who's Who Retained for Voters Services Public Education Public Issue Forum	\$4,500 \$300 \$0 \$1,000 \$300	\$2,500 \$200 \$0 \$1,682 \$100
Total Education Fund Expense	\$6,100	\$4,482

Education Fund Notes

- 1 2012 Voters Guide was published by The Bulletin at a cost of \$4,330 to the League.
- 2. The Bulletin sponsored the 2013 Who's Who at no cost to LWVGLC.
- 3. Retained for Voters Services, \$1,682, is the balance in the Education Fund that is retained for publication of the *Voters Guide* in the following year.
- 4. The next *Voters Guide* is for the City of Las Cruces municipal election, 11/2013

TO THE THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE

MEMBER CONTRIBUTORS With Special Appreciation

Anne Anderson Marcia Anderson Kathy Brook Bonnie Burn Rita Caccamise Sally Christman Maggi Davidson Roberta Gran

Operating Fund

Lee Kershner
Judith LaPointe
Marnie Leverett
Diane & Michael Lilley
Christina & William Little
Judith Scott
Ellen Young

Education Fund

Johnnie Aldrich
Marjorie & Alex Burr
Helen Buggert
Erika Graf-Webster
Caroline Jackson
Christina & William Little
Charlotte McCarthy
Peter Ossorio
Kathy Wooten
Dale Yeo

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS With Our Gratitude

John Ameriks, M.D. Anonymous Biad Chile Ltd. Co. Reed R. Burn Joseph P. Camunez, DDS Donald Dresp Edward Jones - Connie Lee Nancy & Ken Hall Win Jacobs Al Kissling Patricia Kratz Lilley & O'Connell Law Offices Louise P. Lockhart Barbara Myers Francisco Mario Ortiz Law Firm Clifford L. Pelton Marie Sutter-Sinden Sunspot Solar Energy Donna & Tom Tate Williams Design Group, Inc. Zia Engineering & Environmental Consultants

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Program for Study and Action (Continued from page 7)

- determine how to measure objectively each of these indicators and to construct a scale for each that ranges from "detracts from" to "adds to" happiness
- develop an index on which we might judge actions of local and regional governmental and quasi-governmental bodies in this area such as Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID), New Mexico State University (NMSU), Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), as well as governing bodies

Identifying Indicators: The City of Las Cruces (CLC) 2012 Citizen Survey presents an obvious starting point for the study. City administration has disseminated a rough analysis of the data collected. (The survey results deserve a better analysis and interpretation.) There are other indicators which also can be assessed besides citizen satisfaction, (e.g., environmental factors, opportunities for individual growth). League of Women Voter members would come up with an extensive list of indicators.

Measurement of Indicators: Having identified indicators, the study committee can decide what could be used to measure them. As well as satisfaction surveys, we can mine other data sources, from Census data to number of sports teams, to commuting times, for example. It is not suggested that any raw data be collected.

Index of Happiness or Quality of Life: The end result of the study would be an instrument that could be used to form an opinion on decisions to be made by local governing and policy-making bodies. It might be that the index instrument could be a relatively straightforward chart on which policies could be marked up for their impact on happiness or quality of life in the community.

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

Not Recommended for Program Study and Action

Children's Crises Center: Support for this center was raised at the Program Planning Meeting. Child abuse and domestic violence are serious issues for

Doña Ana County. The Children's Crises Center provided shelter for children who were living in difficult home circumstances. The Center was recently closed due to lack of clients.

Not-Recommended: Because the Center is closed, the Board is not recommending this proposal as a program for study and action.

Adoption Process for Program Study and Action

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

Nominating Committee Report

The following nominees are proposed for election:

For Two Year Terms (2013-2015)

President Erika Graf-Webster Treasurer Ruth Benjamins Director, Membership Johnnie Aldrich

For One Year Term (2013-2014)

Vice President & Program . . Roberta Gran (Completing second year of unfilled 2-year term)

Nominating Committee (One Year Term)

Chair Marjorie Burr Elected Member Sue Cain

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Gran, Director of Membership Judith Scott, Elected Member

Note: Remaining on the Board to complete second year of their two-year elected term: Secretary Martha Duran

Co-Directors, Voter Services

Gracia Class and Gwen Hanson

Introducing the Proposed Nominees



Erika Graf-Webster – Candidate for President (2013-2015)

Erika's long working career was spent entirely in technology areas. Starting as a computer programmer in the late '60s, she quickly went on to systems

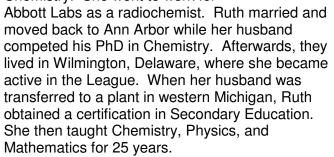
analysis and design. She has designed and implemented numerous systems, including the first database for storing and managing SAT tests and scores. Over the last 20 years, she worked as a senior systems engineer and project manager for large programs in the defense and intelligence arenas. In these roles, she also developed extensive skills in process engineering (e.g., developing systematic, repeatable processes that ensure end-to-end correct development of high-quality systems).

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

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

Ruth M. Benjamins – Candidate for Treasurer (2013-2015)

Ruth was born and grew up in Binghamton, New York. After high school, she went to the University of Michigan and received a degree in Chemistry. She went to work for



After retirement she and Ed, who passed away in 2012, moved to Las Cruces where they have lived for 23 years. She has served as treasurer for the Symphony Guild and for the Las Cruces Branch of

AAUW. She is presently the State Finance Officer for AAUW, as well as the treasurer of LWVGLC. She is seeking a second two-year term in office as Treasurer



Johnnie Aldrich - Candidate for Director of Membership (2013-2015)

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 the LWVGLC Board as Secretary 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, Michigan, and Minnesota 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.



Roberta Gran
- Candidate for Vice President & Program (2013-2014)

Roberta has had a long and varied career and academic history. College started at California State Polytechnic College in San Luis

Obispo, California, where she majored in Home

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Introductions to Nominees (Continued from page 11)

Economics and Music. She studied Spanish and German at the University of Maryland in Europe, and upon her return after six years in Spain and Germany, she received her chef's diploma at the New England Institute of Culinary Arts. She studied German and Russian at Dartmouth and Paralegal Studies at Doña Ana Community College.

She taught culinary arts and catered in the Boston area and New Hampshire for 10 years. She founded and ran a wearable art clothing company primarily in Russia, Ukraine and Bulgaria, and had two art galleries of Russian and Eastern European art and artifacts in New Hampshire and Vermont for 13 years. She has been an administrative assistant for Dr. Joseph Massey, a former trade representative to China and Japan for two U.S. Presidents at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, and for former Ambassador Delano Lewis at the International Relations Institute at New Mexico State University (NMSU) from which she retired.

She sponsors two NMSU School of Nursing scholarships for Native American students and volunteers as the fundraiser for the American Indian Program at NMSU. She volunteers at NM Legal Aid and is the activities coordinator for INCA, Indigenous Nations Community Action, a local organization that provides support to students and others in need, social and spiritual events. She spends a majority of her time as the local League's Membership Director, working on the Education Study and Voter Impediment Study Committees, and helping with special events and fundraising. She is also a member of the League's Book Club.



Marjorie Burr - Chair, Nominating Committee (2013-2014)

Marjorie has been active in LWVGLC for 45 years, serving in many positions on the board and two terms as president in the '70s. She also

served on the LWVNM board, one year as president. She is the mother of another LWVGLC president, Cathy Mathews.

She was a member of the Las Cruces City Charter Commission that wrote the charter allowing Las Cruces to become a home rule city.

She has a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College, master's degrees from Johns Hopkins University and NMSU, and an Ed.D. degree from NMSU. Marjorie made her career at Doña Ana Community College as a mid-level administrator. She has been retired for 12 years.

The League is her passion--in a laid-back sort of way. She also spends time cooking for her family and working in her yard.

Sue Cain - Elected Member, Nominating Committee (2013-2014)

Sue, a four-year resident of Las Cruces, is a first-time member of the League of Women Voters. After serving for 30 years as a



classroom teacher, media specialist, and high school teacher and counselor in public elementary, middle, and high schools in Omaha, Nebraska; Kansas City, Kansas; and Lincoln, Nebraska Public Schools, she retired in 1998. Sue specialized as a facilitator for gifted students for ten years and helped to develop multicultural and diversity educational services at the elementary and high school levels. She also worked with professional development for staff at all levels, K-12 in the Lincoln Public Schools.

Sue's favorite hobbies are off-trail hiking, collecting rocks, reading and traveling.

Sue is married to Terry Cain who is a retired United Methodist Minister from the Nebraska Annual Conference. Terry is also a member of LWVGLVC.

Sue's son, Terry, works as a computer systems manager for State Farm in Bloomington/Normal, IL. Her daughter, Sherry Clements, lives with her husband Dan in Silver City where they own a small construction company specializing in building new homes that are as "green" as possible along with smaller remodeling and building projects.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

President's Farewell

Dear Members:

The League has been my passion since I retired in 1996. Departing the presidency is a bittersweet moment for me. BUT, members who truly believe in the work of the League do not fade away. You will be seeing me again promoting "the vote" in some capacity.

It was quite an experience to look back over my President's Messages in the last four Annual Meeting VOTERS. My goal when taking office was to increase the visibility of the League and to reduce the number of times I heard the statement, "League of



Women Who?" I still hear people stumble over our name; however, the occasions are farther and farther apart. It is very nice to get a phone call that invites the League to send a representative to a local government committee or board or to ask about collaborating on an issue. "Are you attending the energy conference, the water symposium, or the immigration institute," is music to my ears. Over the last four years many of our League members attended all of the above. I think the League is an established community leader. Much credit for this community recognition must go to those members who came before and who built a good foundation. I want to believe that I added a "story."

To mention some of the highlights of the past four years, I would start with:

- Program for Study and Action: that would be first among my top three. We completed two major studies, Affordable Housing in Doña Ana County and Public Education in Las Cruces, and have an ongoing study that is examining Impediments to Voting in Doña Ana County. We also participated in the consensus process for two LWVUS studies, Public Education and Privatization, and one LWVNM study, Public Regulation Commission. Unit meetings were added to the League calendar. In additional meetings, more time was devoted to educating our members and reaching consensus. Members attended even though they were second or third meetings in a given month. Having positions based on up-to-date information enabled us to take advocacy, especially during the 60-day 2013 NM Legislative Session.
- Public forums sponsored by the League is next. In July 2009, the League sponsored a public forum on health care reform where members of the audience heard new information about the health insurance industry, how health care was dispensed and reforms that were being considered. Little did we realize then that debate about health care reform would consume the summer of 2009. Marjorie Burr put a bug in my ear about holding a program, Your State and Local Government, that involved a lecture series sponsored by the Academy for Learning in Retirement. For newcomers like me, this course was extremely helpful. A celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters and the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the right to vote brought together 18 women's groups in the area for a two-day conference, "Women Win the Vote." I enjoyed meeting the leaders of these respected community organizations. The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument effort introduced the public to a lot of local terrain that many of people either didn't know about or no longer could hike because of physical limitations. Our advocacy on this initiative at the federal level continues to await a final decision, but we connected with many knowledgeable people working in wilderness conservation. Finally, a public presentation entitled, "Campaign Finance After Citizens United," sponsored by the League and NM Common Cause presented an in-depth look at the Supreme Court case and the effects of its decision on the 2012 general election.
- Although mentioned third, our voter services activities are not last on the list. They are sought after, and their importance is emphasized by generous financial support from members of the community. The four components of the service voter registration, candidates forums, publishing the *Voters Guide*, and

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President's Farewell (Continued from page 13)

Who's Who are well organized and attract member volunteers to fulfill responsibilities. In 2012, the League collaborated with CAFÉ, NM Communities in Action & Faith, to produce a Spanish edition of the 2012 *Voters Guide*. The City of Las Cruces collaborated with us to hold all of the candidates' forums in the City Council Chamber that provided access to local government television and live broadcast and rebroadcast of the forums until election day.

The League still is a cost effective organization but changes have occurred. Our telephone number is directed to a voice mail box in CenturyLink so that any League member may answer it from any place, including while traveling. Our post office box remains unchanged. Our web site is hosted by a private provider, and we are hoping to upgrade it to accommodate the growing volume of nonpartisan, unbiased information we are producing. Some of our members joined the newly organized current events book club, and some have volunteered for a reorganized legislative action alert committee. Holiday Socials and an Afternoon Social gave us opportunities to meet and mingle in a different format from the monthly Lunch with a Leader format.

In closing, this is not goodbye; this is a thank you to all who were part of my four-year adventure. Thank you for giving me advice, for supporting me when I needed to have my back covered, and for helping me make the League a valuable community asset.

Bonnie

YEAR END REPORTS - FY 2012-2013

Affordable Housing Committee - Christina Litter and Vicki Simons. Co-Chairs

Having come to member agreement in January 2012, the Affordable Housing Committee has been in action mode for the 2012-2013 League year and wishes to retain our status as an active committee during the upcoming year.

Our activities over the past year have included:

- Observing the meetings of the Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority and providing observer articles for *The Voter*.
- Learning that southern New Mexico has not received an appropriate share (based on population and need) of Low Income Tax Credits for new developments. In response, we wrote a letter to the Mortgage Finance Authority (not to be confused with the New Mexico Finance Authority) asking that their selection criteria be evaluated to assure equity among all regions of the state.
- Paying close attention to affordable housing issues throughout the area. In December 2012, we wrote a letter to the city council asking that funding be found for the Housing Trust Fund. Subsequently, the city councilors voted to transfer \$200,000 from the general fund to this fund. In response to this action, we wrote a letter to the city council applauding their move

and provided a more general update to the LWV membership in a Voter article.

With the approval of the local board, the committee will propose that LWVNM adopt the LWV/GLC Affordable Housing position by concurrence of delegates at State Convention.

The committee currently consists of Vicki Simons and Christina Little, co-chairs, with Jane Carter and Charlotte McCarthy serving as active members. We invite other League members to join us. Since we meet on a "as needed" basis, the best way of joining us would be to contact Vicki (522-4813) or Chris (373-1882). This is a great opportunity. This appears to be a time when much will happen on the local scene. The committee will continue meeting with local affordable housing players and advocate when possible.

Education Committee - Jane Asche and Sue Cain, Co-Chairs

The major focus this year for the Education Study Committee was to identify potential legislation affecting education related to the recently adopted local League education position (October 2011). In

(Continued on page 15)

Education (Continued from page 14)

addition, we took action to deepen our understanding of new regulations from the Public Education Department to study their impact locally.

Bonnie Burn and Jane Asche met with Dr. Steven Sanchez from Las Cruces Public Schools to better understand two specific issues: 1) the process for calculating the A-F grading system for schools, and 2) the new plan for evaluation of teacher performance that incorporates measurement of student academic growth in the classroom. Dr. Sanchez also was contacted for a list of critical issues related to the Las Cruces Public Schools that might be addressed in the 2013 New Mexico Legislative Session.

As a next step resulting from these activities, we organized a Legislative Action Plan for a process to advocate for our education positions during the 2013 NM Legislative Session. Committee members participated in the LWVNM Action Group electronic communication system, the group's weekly conference calls, and the weekly bill tracking reports to learn the status of current bills identified as priorities by our local and state League organizations. Roberta Gran organized a legislative action telephone tree to maximize constituency impact. Local League members agreed to make phone calls or send emails to their senators and representatives to advocate for support of these priority bills when alerted by the six telephone tree lead callers.

During the 2013 League program planning meeting in February, this committee agreed that it would continue to study and track activity in the 2013-2014 program year in two areas of special interest: early childhood education and grade level retention.

Current Committee Members: Jane Asche, Bonnie Burn, Sue Cain, Barbara Goedecke, Roberta Gran, Nancy Phillips

Voter Services - Gwen Hanson and Gracia Class, Co-Chair

2012-2013 Voter Services activities were divided into the following five major task areas:

 Voter Registration activities were led primarily by Bonnie Burn during August, and Tom Schmugge took responsibility for September. This year, registrations were coordinated with other community organizations to maximize the "get out the vote" effort. Approximately 130 new voters were registered by the League.

- 2. Voters Guide activities were led by Dale Yeo. The publication was bilingual this year, and consisted of sixteen pages printed in both English and Spanish. The Guides were published by The Bulletin newspaper. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces and New Mexico Communidades en Accion y de Fe (CAFé) for the purpose of describing the financial responsibility of CAFÉ for the printing of the Spanish edition. Distribution of the Voters Guide began October 12, 2012.
- 3. Candidate Forums were coordinated by Gwen Hanson and Gracia Class. Due to the large number of candidates in a general election year, there were three forums held in October. The forums were held in the council chambers, City Hall. The first forum hosted candidates for the New Mexico Senate; the second hosted candidates for the New Mexico House of Representatives; and the third hosted the candidates for the Third Judicial District Judges and the Doña Ana County Commissioners, District Attorney, Clerk and Treasurer. The forums were well-attended by the candidates and the public. They were broadcast live and rebroadcast, via CLC-TV, until the election.
- 4. Newly elected New Mexico Senators and representatives from the Doña Ana County area were invited to the **Annual Legislative Breakfast**, Saturday, December 1, 2012. A total of fifty-three League members and legislators attended. Legislators were given the opportunity to discuss their legislative priorities for the 60-day 2013 NM legislative session.
- 5. **2013 Who's Who** publication, a directory of elected officials, is published as a public service every other year. The new edition, printed by *The Bulletin*, will be distributed in March. Dale Yeo led the effort for updating this very important League document.

We wish to express our appreciation to our fellow League members for their support, skill, and expertise in making our Voter Services activities so successful. Our thanks for the collaboration of several community organizations and the City of Las Cruces for sharing resources. Page 16 The VOTER

Membership Report - Roberta Gran, Director

The 2013 LWVUS membership snap shot taken as of January 31, 2013, showed that the Greater Las Cruces League had 66 individual, 9 second household and 1 honorary member for a total of 76 members. Our membership is down from 94 in January 2012 because during 2012-2013, a total of 19 individuals dropped their membership for reasons that included moving, financial concern, no longer active in League; significantly,12 became Friends, who financially support the League, but no longer consider themselves active members. During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, three members were added, Antoinette Fuentes-Knapp, Olga Pedroza, and Lynette Schurdevin. Carol Groves joined just recently. One of our members received a boardapproved scholarship.

President Bonnie Burn and Membership Director Roberta Gran held one new member orientation session, December 12, 2012, at which three new members attended out of six invited. Those six invited members consisted of new and current members who had not previously attended an orientation.

Membership recruitment at present is word of mouth and personal encounters in the community with individuals who express an interest in the League. LWVNM is exploring the LWVUS Project, Membership and Leadership Development Project, to evaluate how this project may facilitate increasing local League membership.

Programs for 2012-2013

The listings below reflect a busy and varied program year for the League. Those items with a specific designation are Lunch with a Leader presentations. The League was on vacation during July, sponsored two public presentations, held our first afternoon social, and participated in the state study consensus about the Public Regulations Commission. We repeated our Holiday Social. It was a very productive year.

2012

May 14 Salute to Marnie and Jim Leverett, long time League members. Marnie is the second member of the Greater Las Cruces League who

earned Honorary Membership, having held membership in the League for 50 years.

June 11, Collective Impact and the Institute for Community Engagement (IFCE)– Jane Asche, Presenter.

July RECESS – NO MEETINGS

August 13 Organ Mountain – Desert Peaks National Monument Proposal – David Soules, Presenter

August 27 Unit Meeting - Public Regulations Commission, (Education and Consensus), Presenters, Neva Van Peski, Karen Heldmeyer, and Jody Larson, LWV of Santa Fe County, 1-3 p.m.

September 10 Land Management - New Mexico State Land Office — Commissioner Ray Powell, Presenter

September 13 Public Presentation: Organ Mountain – Desert Peaks national Monument - David Soules, Presenter, Good Samaritan Main Auditorium, 6:30-8 p.m.

October 8 Afternoon Social: 4:30 – 6:00 p.m., Sunset Grill, Sonoma Ranch. "Pressing Forward in Early Childhood Education" Luis Reyes, Ph.D., Associate Dean, New Mexico State University, Presenter

November 12 Election Protection and Campaign Finance Transparency – Viki Harrison, Executive Director, NM Common Cause, Presenter

December 1 Annual Legislative Breakfast

December 8 Holiday Social, 2-4 p.m., Carol Jackson's Home

2013

January 8 Public Presentation: Campaign Finance After Citizen's United, 6:30-8 p.m., Las Cruces City Council Chambers. Broadcast live on CLC-TV, Comcast Cable Ch 20.

January 14 South Central Regional Transit District – Jack L. Valencia, Jr., Project Manager

February 11 Planning for Local and State Programs for Study and Action

(Continued on page 17)

Program 2012-2013 (Continued from page 16)

March 11 U.S. Border Patrol, Las Cruces Station – Richard Hudson, Patrol Agent in Charge of the Las Cruces Station, Presenter

April 20 ANNUAL MEETING

Ad Hoc Committee on Municipal Campaign Finance Reform - Erika Graf-Webster, Vice-Chair Reporting

At the urging of City Councilor Miguel Silva who had recognized that the city's regulations pertaining to campaign finance were inadequate, the League joined with Common Cause and proposed to the city council the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Campaign Finance Reform for the City of Las Cruces. The city council approved the proposal, and the mayor appointed seven members to serve on the committee in May of 2012.

Erika Graf-Webster represented the League and served as Vice Chair of the committee. City Clerk Esther Martinez-Carillo and City Attorney Pete Connelly were members of the committee. Mr. Connelly and Ms. Martinez-Carillo had already been directed by City Manager Robert Garza to draft new regulations for campaign finance. The committee started with that draft, but then reviewed a number of other campaign finance regulations, including those for the cities of Rio Rancho, Santa Fe and Albuquerque, as well as New Mexico state law.

The Committee agreed that the major objective of the new regulations should be transparency—the flow of money into and out of a campaign must be identifiable, traceable, and reported for the public record.

The committee met several times and agreed upon the major points that the new regulations should cover. These were as follows:

- There should be one account for each campaign and it should be closed sometime after the election (e.g., candidates would not be able to build up a "war chest" to be used for future campaigns).
- The account should be closed at some point after the election, with campaign debts resolved and any remaining money disbursed to original

- donors, given to the city or given to a 501(c)3 organization.
- The obligation to provide campaign reports in a timely manner rested with the candidate and his/ her campaign treasurer (e.g., the city clerk would not be issuing constant reminders).

The draft of the proposed new ordinance was presented to the city council on September 10, 2012. As could be expected, while there was general agreement that the proposed regulation was a good step in the right direction, there were disagreements on individual items in the proposal. Some councilors did not agree with the deadline for closing campaign accounts. Some wanted more flexibility in handling their debt and disposing of any residual money. A couple of councilors thought that the penalty due for late filing of campaign reports was excessive.

The committee met again, and developed a second draft of the regulations that tried to respond to most of the comments that had been made by the city council. This new version was then submitted to the council on February 19, 2013. There were a number of further comments from the councilors. Since the term of the ad hoc committee had expired, the city clerk and the city attorney once again revised the proposal after the February meeting, and presented a third version to the council on March 4. There was extensive discussion of the proposal at this meeting. Again, the councilors spoke very favorably about the overall approach of the new draft, but each councilor seemed to want to tweak one or two of the individual provisions of the regulation to better suit his or her personal preferences. The mayor then suggested that the council should schedule an additional work session in order to capture all those desired changes. This work session was scheduled for March 18.

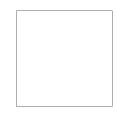
Erika Graf-Webster spoke at the end of the March 4 meeting and recommended to the city council that the version that will be agreed to at the March 18 meeting be adopted for the upcoming election, but that, for the long term, the city consider implementing public financing for municipal elections, based on the models currently in place in Albuquerque and Santa Fe



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APRIL 20, 2013 - ANNUAL MEETING
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FIRST CLASS

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PLEASE BRING THIS VOTER AND THE 2012-13 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY WITH YOU TO THIS MEETING

CALENDAR

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April 12 (Friday) - **Deadline for Reservations for Annual Meeting**. RSVP Marjorie Burr, 522-2528 or email: burrmmb@aol.com.

April 20 (Saturday) - 9:00 a.m. - **ANNUAL MEETING**, Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. **BREAKFAST** is \$10. **Reservations required.**

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

MARK Your Calendar

May 18-19 - LWVNM CONVENTION, Las Cruces (Details in La Palabra Spring 2013 issue)
June 14-17 - LWVUS Council, National Conference Center, Leesburg, VA, (Near Dulles Airport).



SILENT AUCTION

LWVNM Convention, Las Cruces May 18 and 19, 2013 Hilton Garden Inn, 2550 Don Roser

Bring auction items (in good condition) with you to the opening lunch on Saturday, May 18. Final bids will be Sunday morning, May 19, Any item not bid upon must be taken home with you. Thanks for finding items that you want to donate.

Contact: Andrea Targhetta (505) 792-1148,

Email: atarghetta@comcast.net

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