

Editor's Note: ***PLEASE PRINT THE APPENDICES and ADD PAGE NUMBERS.*** I had some formatting difficulty and could not get consistent numbering.

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### APPENDIX 1

#### 2017 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER LAS CRUCES

#### 2017 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2017, 9:00 am - 11:15 pm

Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room

**Welcome and Introduction:** President Gwen Hanson called business the meeting to order at 9:30 am after informal sharing among members over breakfast. She expressed her great appreciation for all in attendance.

### MEETING ADMINISTRATION

- **Appoint Minutes Readers:** Ellen Young and William Little will be the two readers for accuracy of the 2017 annual meeting minutes.
- **Appoint Parliamentarian:** William Little served as the meeting parliamentarian. Bonnie Votaw agreed to serve as the time counter and vote counter for the day's meeting.

- **Adopt Business Rules:** A motion was made by Sharon Shoemaker and seconded by Kurt Anderson to adopt the Business Meeting Rules as printed on page 2 of the April 2017 VOTER. Motion passed unanimously.

**Changes to the Agenda:** President, Gwen Hanson asked for approval to move the "Acknowledgements" agenda item up to this point in the meeting because two of the persons to be acknowledged needed to leave early due to other commitments.

**Approval of the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Sue Lashley and seconded by Kurt Anderson to accept the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Steve Litts reviewed the Proposed Operations Budget and Proposed Education Fund Budget (page 8 of April VOTER) and commented that "the budget is still in the black, but is getting a little more gray." He explained that the smaller amount of cash on hand had to do with several unexpected causes: 1) a new printer for the Who's Who brochure had to be engaged, and 2) donations to the League went down markedly during the 2016-17 fiscal year. He suggested that much more information needs to be shared electronically with things like the Who's Who Directory (fewer were printed this year than had been in the past) and possibly the Voters Guide available on the website and less done in print form because of rising printing costs.

President Hanson explained that Education Fund Donations had to go to the National Education Fund, a 501c3, to preserve the tax deductible status for the donors. Steve added that the donations to the Education Fund did not show up as income to the local, again to preserve the tax deductibility of the donation. When grants were approved by the national for education related activities for the local, that approved amount was then entered into the local's account. A local could not draw out more funds than existed in their national education account, however.

Steve strongly encouraged members to donate to the education fund and also consider setting up a method to donate contributions from an IRA or trust fund, so these disbursements are tax free donations for the donor. The Operating Fund and Education Fund Reports were placed on the same page for ease of reporting, and were distinguished as separate budgets through different color coding.

**Report from the President:** Gwen stated that it had been her honor to serve as president over the past two years and she greatly appreciated the help of all members in carrying out the work of the organization. She said that it has been a challenging year, but "we adapted". She referred members to her detailed report in the April VOTER (pp.

6-7). Marjorie Burr requested a change in her report to show that the Metropolitan Court Committee is still active as opposed to inactive as stated in her report.

**Acknowledgements:** Gwen Hanson gave special certificates of appreciation to Vice President Sharon Shoemaker, Treasurer Steve Litts, Nominating Committee Chair Johnnie Aldrich, and to Bonnie Votaw for her work as elected member of the board and editor of the VOTER. She also acknowledged Chair, Erika Graf-Webster, and committee members for their work on the Youth Engagement Committee which is being honored for their collaborative work with youth by Ngage New Mexico in their April 20th Awards Ceremony. She thanked officers and committee chairs for their flexibility in adapting many long standing organizational processes to accommodate all the change necessary during the year due in large part to some officers moving away from the area. A thank you luncheon for out-going and incoming officers was held at Aqua Reef on March 24. Gwen also thanked William and Christina Little for the good council that they had provided her.

## **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

- **Adoption of the Nonpartisan Policy:** A motion was made by Erika Graf-Webster and seconded by Elizabeth Taylor to adopt the Nonpartisan Policy (on page 17 of Membership Directory) for the 2017-2018 program year. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Adoption of Bylaws:** A motion was made by Bonnie Votaw and seconded by Barbara Goedecke to adopt the bylaws (pp 19-25 of Membership Directory) with no changes for the 2017 - 2018 program year. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Adoption of 2017-2018 Operations Budget:** A motion was made by Connie Lee and seconded by Bonnie Votaw to adopt the proposed general operating budget for FY 2017-18 (see page 8 of April VOTER). Motion passed unanimously.
- **Adoption of 2017-2018 Education Budget:** A motion was made by Connie Lee and seconded by Bonnie Votaw to adopt the proposed Education Fund budget (page 8 of April VOTER) for FY 2017-18. Ellen Young stated that the \$4,000 donation goal for the Education Fund was probably very optimistic, since only \$280 was donated in 2016.
- **Approval of Annual Membership Dues:** The President reported that the Board of Directors voted to keep membership dues at \$60 because our dues are already higher than most local leagues

in New Mexico. Since there was no change in the dues, approval of membership dues was not voted on by the general membership at the annual meeting which is required if the board votes to change the dues structure.

- **Adoption of Current Statement of Positions:** A motion was made by Barbara Goedecke and seconded by Sue Schmugge to adopt the current Statements of Positions appearing in the 2016-2017 Membership Directory with several corrections as follows: 1) the latest update to the Nonpartisan Policy should read 2016 instead of 2015 (p. 17), 2) the adoption of Position Statements should read April 18, 2016 instead of 2015 (p. 25), 3) the latest update to the Education Position should read 2016 instead of 2015, (p. 26) and 4) the addition of a paragraph in the Education Position, a change approved in 2016, was not reflected in the 2016-2017 Membership Directory (pp. 26-28). This additional paragraph reads as follows:

"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 motion passed unanimously.

- **Adoption of Recommended Program for Study and Action:** A proposal was discussed for a new study titled: Impediments to Voter Registration and to Voting for the 18-22 year-old Millennials in Doña Ana County. Marjorie Burr posed the question as to whether this study was related to a current position statement so as to be suitable for a League Study. Erika Graf-Webster responded that the study did indeed fit within the parameters of the Election Procedures Position Statement.

A motion was made by Johnnie Aldrich and seconded by Sue Schmugge to adopt the recommended program for study and action. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Report of Nominating Committee and Election:** The slate of new officers was read by Nominating Committee Chair Johnnie Aldrich as follows: President, Kim Sorensen (2017-19 term); Secretary, Connie Lee for one year to finish out the term of Ardyth Norem (2017-18); Treasurer, Steve Litts (2017-19 term); Director of Membership, Sue Lashley (2017-19 term); Nominating Committee Chair, Jane Asche (2017-18 term), and Elected Member of Nominating Committee, Sadie Valverde (2017-18 term). Then there was a call for additional nominations from the floor. None were made. A motion was made by Ellen Young and seconded by Kurt Anderson to accept the slate. The slate was unanimously accepted.

## OTHER ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS

- **LWVNM Convention Delegates:** Gwen Hanson, Kim Sorensen, Erika Graf-Webster, and Connie Lee
- **LWVUS Convention Delegates (Washington, DC):** There are two delegates that are approved by the State League of Women Voters to attend the National convention as official delegates. However, anyone who wants to attend as an observer may do so. They can register on the National League of Women Voter's website.
- **Direction to the Board from Members:** The following directions were given to the Board of Directors by the Members:
  1. Develop a transition plan to advertise broadly that the Who's Who Directory of Elected Officials and possibly the Voter Guide will be available on the LWVGLC website to get people over a two year period starting to look for these publication in electronic form as opposed to print form. For the meantime continue to print more limited numbers of the Who's Who Directory with it also posted on the League website and consider eventually taking the Voter Guide online instead of printing it in the Sun-News.
  2. There is currently a discrepancy between the Membership Directory and the website regarding the student membership fee. Correct this discrepancy.
  3. Review of all current position statements during the 2017-18 program year and pay special attention to the County Government Position Statement which has not been updated since 1997.
  4. Develop a policy and/or protocol for handling requests from outside groups requesting the League to sign letters of support for a variety of causes or purposes.
  5. Consider appointing a volunteer Public Relations Director.
  6. Consider reinstituting the Off-Board position of Observer Corps Coordinator for LWVGLC for at least the City Council, County Commission, and Board of Education. The coordinator would organize member volunteers to attend meetings in whatever rotation schedule they decide among themselves. Each observer should write up a brief report for the VOTER. See below for the rationale for this request.\*
  7. Send the revised Education Position Statement to the state League since they have adopted our position statement and the new paragraph added in our local position in 2016 relates to potential state education policy changes.
  8. Begin planning during this program year for a 50th anniversary celebration of our local League for the year 2018 with a major fundraiser as a part of the plans.
  9. Revisit the idea of co-mingling operating and education funds. (This was submitted in writing by William Little as he is concerned about his understanding of Steve Litts suggestion as he heard it.)
  10. Make sure that next year's budget has a line item for state convention registration fees before the state convention occurs.

11. Consider scheduling at least four monthly meetings, especially in the winter months, as luncheons rather than dinners.
12. Consider the possibility of having more of the meetings being sessions for discussion among us rather than the usual speaker format.

\*Johnnie Aldrich's rationale for the Observer Corps - "Serving as a 'watchdog' of government and its various entities should be a vital role for the League of Women Voters. Such activity is also a significant contribution in educating our own members and supporters about government activity. Our presence at meetings of local government also increases the League visibility."

- **Announcements:**

1. **Soil and Water District Elections** coming up May 2. No early voting. Voting sites on May 2 from 7am to 7pm are Doña Ana County Government Center, Good Samaritan Village, Sage Cafe Community Center off Highway 70, Vado Community Center, Anthony Municipal Complex, and Betty McKnight Center in Chaparral.
2. **Mesilla Valley Concert Band** will present a concert May 14 at Atkinson Recital Center on NMSU Campus at 3:00 PM. It is free, but you need to come early to get a seat.
3. **Articles for the May VOTER** due today.
4. **Affordable Housing Discussion** will be held on April 25 at Good Sam's in the West Lounge, 1st floor, in E Building at 8:00 am.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made for adjournment at 11:15 by Connie Lee and seconded by Kurt Anderson. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Asche, Meeting Recorder  
Erika Graf-Webster, Meeting Recorder  
William Little, Reader  
Ellen Young, Reader

## APPENDIX 2 2018-2019 BUDGET

## Proposed FY 18-19 General Fund

FY 17-18 Budget	Actual 10 months	Est 2 months	Est. FY18	Proposed FY19	Assumptions
<b>Carryover Operating Funds</b>	2,000.00\$		4,600.00\$	5,600.00\$	
<b>Income</b>					
Member Dues	4,650.00\$	4,260.00\$	4,260.00\$	5,135.00\$	73 + 12 @ \$65
Voter Subscription	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
Contributions Op Fund					
Members	1,000.00\$	785.00\$	1,000.00\$	1,250.00\$	already donated
Community		500.00\$	-\$	-\$	
<b>NEEDED Fund Raising</b>		250.00\$	-\$	<b>2,281.00\$</b>	
Meeting Meals	4,350.00\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
Miscellaneous	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
<b>Total Income</b>	10,750.00\$	5,045.00\$	1,000.00\$	6,045.00\$	8,666.00\$
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>Per Member Dues Payment</b>			for 62 members, 12 additional		
LWVUS	2,528.00\$	2,528.00\$	-\$	2,528.00\$	2,176.00\$ @ \$32
LWVNM	1,033.00\$	1,033.00\$	-\$	1,033.00\$	884.00\$ @ \$13
<b>Membership</b>			-\$		
New Member	200.00\$	45.00\$	-\$	45.00\$	-\$
Brochure					
Membership	300.00\$	167.88\$	-\$	167.88\$	200.00\$
Directory Printing					
Membership	50.00\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
Directory Postage					
<b>Meeting &amp; Conventions</b>			-\$		
LWVUS Convention	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	3,000.00\$
LWVUS Council	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
LWVNM Council	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	300.00\$
LWVNM Convention	300.00\$	-\$	300.00\$	300.00\$	-\$
Legislative Day	300.00\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
Materials/Supplies					
Local Annual Meeting	100.00\$	-\$	-\$	100.00\$	100.00\$
Printing					
Legislative Breakfast	50.00\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
Supplies					
Meeting Meal Charges	4,375.00\$	120.00\$	-\$	120.00\$	150.00\$
<b>Study Group Expenses</b>			-\$		
Materials	100.00\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
Youth Engagement			100.00\$		
<b>Board Expenses</b>			-\$		
Telephone	315.00\$	229.97\$	46.00\$	275.97\$	280.00\$
P.O. Box	85.00\$	55.50\$	-\$	55.50\$	86.00\$
Office	150.00\$	68.60\$	-\$	68.60\$	-\$
Supplies(Include Postage)					
Equipment	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
PayPal Expense	210.00\$	28.56\$	5.00\$	33.56\$	30.00\$
50th Anniversary Celebration	-\$	41.68\$	-\$	41.68\$	1,250.00\$ \$1,250 donation remaining in Op funds
Bond/Liability Insurance	500.00\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
<b>Web Site Domain</b>			-\$		
Web Site Annual Fee	110.00\$	108.87\$	-\$	108.87\$	110.00\$
Misc Expense	50.00\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
<b>Voter Service Support</b>			-\$		
Voter Printing	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
Voter Postage	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>10,756.00\$</b>	<b>4,427.06\$</b>	<b>351.00\$</b>	<b>4,878.06\$</b>	<b>\$8,666.00</b>
<b>Education Fund</b>					
<b>Voter Service Support(Ed Fund)</b>	1,800.00\$		2,200.00\$	Starting Balance	
Voter's Guide	900.00\$	-\$	1,065.70\$	1,065.70\$	3,500.00\$
Voter Brochures & Cards	-\$	86.65\$	-\$	86.65\$	-\$
Candidates Forum	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
Who' Who	900.00\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	500.00\$
50th Anniversary Celebration	-\$	-\$	-\$	500.00\$	Designated funds

Public Issues Forum	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
Retained for Voter Services	2,000.00\$	-\$	-\$	-\$	-\$
<b>Total Ed Fund Expenses</b>	<b>3,800.00\$</b>	<b>86.65\$</b>	<b>1,065.70\$</b>	<b>1,152.35\$</b>	<b>4,500.00\$</b>
<b>NEEDED Fund Raising</b>		<b>2,300.00\$</b>		<b>results in exhausting complete fund</b>	

Get out your checkbook . . .  
ANNUAL DUES NEED TO BE PAID ASAP

**AND**

*Consider CONTRIBUTING to*

- *The Bonnie Burn Scholarship*
- *The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*
- *Voter Services – this is a big election year*



APPENDIX 3  
RECOMMENDED PROGRAM FOR STUDY AND ACTION

The following recommendations for 2018-2019 were proposed by the membership at the Feb. 12 Program Planning Meeting.

1. Recommend LWVUS continue its focus on @Making Democracy Work
2. No additional studies recommended for LWVNM
3. No additional studies recommended for LWVGLC
4. Recommend LWVGLC not add any additional committees this coming year.
5. Recommend there be a review of the County Government and Municipal Elections Positions.

APPENDIX 4

MINUTES

February 12, 2018 Annual Planning Meeting for Study and Action  
10:30 am – 1:00 pm at  
Good Samaritan Conference Room

**LWVGLC Planning (morning):**

League President, Kim Sorensen, welcomed participants and opened the meeting with a call for reports from chairs of current studies and committees.

**1. Status review of existing studies and committees:**

- a. ***Youth Engagement*** – “The vision of the Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) is to establish permanent and continuing relationships with young people in the community for the purpose of developing a youth engagement program to motivate and engage young people to become active members of the community, active citizens and voters, and to ultimately engage in the work of the League.”

Erika Graf-Webster, Chair of the Youth Engagement Committee, reported that the committee is pursuing two major activities: 1) a *Study of Voter Participation of 18-24 Year-Olds*, and 2) the ongoing planning for the development of a *Civic Engagement Program* to be folded into the high School, middle School, and eventually the elementary school curricula in the Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS). Much progress has been made with regard to these two activities, which have involved a great deal of collaboration with the NMSU Center for Community Analysis and the Government Department at NMSU in the voter participation survey project. The Civic Engagement Project, a collaboration with LCPS, has been launched with the buy-in of LCPS Superintendent, Dr. Greg Ewing, and the Assistant Superintendent, of Learning and Teaching and soon to be Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Wendi Miller Tomlinson, along with participation of the curriculum directors for social studies and representatives of classroom teachers.

*Actions suggested by planning meeting participants:* Bonnie Votaw suggested involving the Rio Grande Preparatory High School, an LCPS alternative school, and Dale Yeo asked the committee to send information to her for posting on the League website about ongoing activities of these two projects.

The Youth Engagement Committee received the Education Champion Community Collaboration Award this past year from Ngage New Mexico for their collaborative research project with the Mayfield High School ENLACE students on Voter Participation among 18 to 29 year-old “Millennials.” The students presented their research at the regional ENLACE conference in March of 2017.

[See *Appendices 1 & 2* for a detailed report of Youth Engagement Committee projects.]

**b. *Affordable Housing*** – Chris Little, Co-Chair with Vicki Simons of the Affordable Housing Committee, reported that prior to 2017 the City Affordable Housing Trust Fund had been built to \$540,000. The city also had established an Affordable Housing Land Bank that can be used for affordable housing. However, the need for affordable housing is still great and city reports show the need for 4,949 affordable rentals and 4,109 home ownership units for people who qualify but for whom there are not available rentals or homes. She reported the following progress toward advancing affordable housing in 2017:

- 1) Ordinances to utilize the Land Bank and Trust Fund have been passed.
- 2) The Work Session in June on Affordable Housing issues included wide-ranging discussion. City Councilors are supportive of affordable housing.
- 3) The City Council sold the Camunez Building and dedicated half of the proceeds to affordable housing (probably to the Trust Fund).
- 4) City Council has approved \$240,000 in Home Funds and \$77,600 for the waiver of impact fees (\$41,600 for park and \$36,000 for water and waste water impact fees) to support a new project, the Desert Hope Apartments. These funds and waivers from the city are to support the application for tax credits from the NM Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA) and are contingent on MFA awarding tax credits to investors who supply the money for such projects. If these tax credits (which are very competitive) are awarded by MFA for this project, it will create 36 supportive rental units. The total cost of the proposed project is \$5 million. The project is a collaborative effort of the Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority and the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope.
- 5) The City has created an Affordable Housing Policy Committee. Chris has not been able to find out who is serving on this committee but will be paying attention and hopes that a member of the League affordable housing committee might be a representative to the city committee.

*Action committed to by meeting participant:* City Councilor, Yvonne Flores, said she would find out about the city affordable housing committee and report back to Chris.

- c. **Voter Services** – Dale Yeo, presented a comprehensive written report from committee Co-chairs, Dale and Vicki Simons [See *MINUTES Appendix 3*]. The Committee has had a very busy and successful year and has
- 1) carried out voter registration drives,
  - 2) produced and distributed the Voters Guide for elections in 2017,
  - 3) continuously updated the 2017-2018 League Who's Who publication of elected officials on the League website,
  - 4) hosted a very successful Legislative Dinner with 7 of the 14 Doña Ana County legislators attending, and
  - 5) executed a number of well attended Voter Forums including the following:
    - 3 Las Cruces 2017 Candidates Forums
    - Bond Issue Forum for LCPS (included questions written by H.S. students)
    - Town of Mesilla Candidates Forum

The League was also invited to do a Candidates Forum for the upcoming City of Anthony's municipal elections, but the logistics could not be worked out in time.

Major topics of discussion included the need to come up with some creative ways to publish and distribute the Voter Guides in lieu of distribution in the Sun-News, since this is a very large budget item, right around \$4,000. With Board approval, we decided to put out an RFP (Request For Proposal) to the two newspapers and also to two printers.

*Actions suggested by Dale and other planning meeting participants:*

Check into distributing the Voters Guides by putting them in the news stands at WalMart (and possibly other popular stores). There is a fee, but Dale thought it might be around \$50, so could cover the four WalMart Stores for \$200. Libraries need to be fully utilized as a resource for the Voters Guides.

Voter Services also wants to expand greatly the reach into the 18 to 24 year-old voter demographic and it was suggested that the Youth Engagement Committee could help with a targeted voter registration drive for this age group using the connections to NMSU Government Students, a possible NMSU intern, and the LCPS Civic Engagement project which includes plans to ramp up activity to get 18-year-old high school students registered and motivated to vote. Dale reported that Scott Krahling plus others are working on a grant for the distribution of the Voters Guides.

Another suggestion was possibly investing in yard signs or posters that just say "VOTE" or some very simple non-partisan message. Dale proposed that we could get magnetic signs to put on the sides of cars or a big poster to put on a large truck or van.

Another idea was to place an ad in the Bulletin and Sun-News that says to go to the LWVGLC Website for information on the candidates and on the process of voting. This probably could be done for free in the Community Announcements section.

President Kim Sorensen asked everyone to think outside the box to come up with creative ideas for Voter Services to greatly extend their reach into the community to increase the number of informed voters showing up at the polls.

- d. **18-24 Year-Olds Voter Participation Study** – This was included in Erika’s report of the YEC (Youth Engagement Committee) [See *MINUTES Appendices 1 & 2*]. She reported that Erica Surova, a League member and the Program Manager for Institutional Analysis at NMSU, has helped construct a draft copy of a survey for 18 to 24 year-old potential voters. Erica worked with a group of NMSU students to help insure that the survey will appeal to 18 to 24 year-old young adults. The *objective of the survey* is to identify why members of this age group do not vote, and what would it take to make them be more likely to vote. Committee members will meet with Dr. Thaddieus Conner’s Government Class at NMSU to talk with the students about participating in reaching out to diverse groups of millennials to take the survey and in the summary and analysis of data gathered during the coming year. The draft survey is available on the NMSU website and via a Smart-phone app.
- e. **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee** – Marjorie Burr, Chair of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, reported on activities underway and proposed throughout the year to achieve the following objectives for the LWVGLC: 1) increase League visibility in the community, 2) raise funds for League activities, and 3) celebrate the history of the LWVGLC. The committee kicked off the upcoming anniversary year with proclamations by Las Cruces City Council on Monday, December 4, 2017, and by the Doña Ana County Commission on Tuesday, December 12, 2017. Johnnie Aldrich coordinated the Proclamation events.

The following activities have taken place or are planned throughout 2018:

- A forum on the night of the National State of the Union Address, Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at Temple Beth El on Electoral Issues organized by Win Jacobs.
- Forum on July 18, 2018, on Mental Health Issues organized by Sadie Valverde.
- Another Forum late summer (probably August) titled Sharing Our Valley organized by Win Jacobs.
- Forum in early fall on Education Issues organized by Jane Asche.
- Celebratory Reunion Picnic at Pioneer Women’s Park on May 5, 2018, at which time the League will plant a tree in the Park.

The following events are still being developed:

- Elizabeth Taylor is working on a traveling exhibit to display at the Branigan Cultural Center during July and August of 2018.

- Publishing of a booklet containing history of the local League, tributes to League members nominated by members and friends, and a list of positions taken by the League in the last 50 years.
- A Gala Banquet in February of 2019.

Both the Reunion Picnic in May of 2018 and the Gala Banquet in February of 2019 will be self-funding and will hopefully raise funds for the League.

Marjorie completed her report by making an urgent plea for volunteers to help with the planning and execution of the May 5 Picnic at Pioneer Women's Park.

- f. Observer Corp** – There was no formal report from the Observer Corp. However, our president commented that this is an important function of the League and more observers are needed to monitor the meetings of the important government groups like the LCPS School Board, City Council, County Commission, Zoning and Planning Commission, and other local public agencies related to our League positions.

## **2. Group discussion: Priorities for 2018:**

During lunch Kim passed out a written survey for 2018 Program Planning to guide the discussion of remaining items on the agenda. In summary, *the group decided that the 2018 focus should be on the work of the three current active committees* (Affordable Housing, Youth Engagement, and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Events) along with the critical work of Voter Services since 2018 is a very important election year.

The remaining report sections below reflect decisions from the lunch discussion that were accomplished by discussing and responding to the survey questions.

## **3. Recommendations for Additional Committees:**

There was no recommendation to start a new committee. However, Marjorie Burr stated that the Quality of Life Committee should be revived with a special focus on a very simple study of the factors related to people's satisfaction with the quality of life in the Las Cruces Community. She stated that the scholarly report had been done, but the need for a practical study on the happiness/satisfaction indicators is still needed.

*Decision by the Group:* It was agreed that reviving this committee was a good idea, but should not be considered until there was a person to lead the group. There was consensus that it should not be tackled when there is such a need for volunteers in 2018 to carry off the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. A final suggestion was that there be a Quality of Life Unit Meeting toward the end of the year that could lead into a study for 2019 if there is someone to head up the study.

*Additional Actions suggested by group:* 1) Involve Lisa LaRocque, the Director of the Las Cruces City Sustainability Office, in this work if a new study is initiated in 2019 by the

Quality of Life Committee, and 2) Hold a Mental Health Unit Meeting lead by Mickey Curtis and Becky Beckett right after the August forum on mental health.

#### **4. Recommendations for New Studies:**

The group agreed that we should not initiate any new studies this year since all volunteers are needed “on deck” to manage the major initiatives of Voter Services, the two major Youth Engagement Committee initiatives and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities.

#### **5. Proposed Community Engagement Activities for 2018:**

The group agreed that we should continue our community engagement in all of the following areas:

- Observer Corp
- Candidate and Issues Forums
- Rock the Vote Campaign (target youth and minority communities)
- Voter Registration Events
- Collaborating with local schools on civic engagement projects
- Collaborating with other organizations such as Common Cause and AAUW.

There were no recommendations for other activities.

#### **6. Review of LWVGLC Positions:**

The group recommended that our positions on both the County Government and Municipal Elections be reviewed and updated.

#### **LWVNM and LWVUS Planning (after lunch):**

##### **1. Recommendations for Review/Revision of Existing Positions:**

There were no recommendations for reviewing and revising current position statements of League of Women Voters of New Mexico or the League of Women Voters of United States.

##### **2. Recommendations for LWVNM Program:**

LWVGLC recommends that LWVNM focus study and action in the coming program year in the following five areas:

- Federal Transfer of Public Land to State,
- Nuclear Waste Study,
- Judicial Reform,
- Redistricting, and
- Healthcare Position, clarifying issues of cost, access, and transparency

### **3. Recommendations for US Program:**

Kim read the description of LVWUS recommended program focus for 2018-2020, the Campaign for Making Democracy Work. There was unanimous agreement from our group that should be the continued program focus for LWVUS over the next two years.

Additionally, we were asked to identify which of the following four aspects of the campaign we as a League intend to use for education and lobbying: 1) Voting Rights, 2) Improving Elections, 3) Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and 4) Redistricting.

The group agreed that LWVGLC would focus on #2 - improving elections, including protecting the “integrity of the ballot.”

Note from Editor: The Minutes of the Planning Meeting also included annual reports from the Youth Engagement Committee and Voter Services. Two other work groups submitted annual reports - the Affordable Housing Committee and the Observer Corps. All four annual reports are published here following the Minutes.



***League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces***  
**Youth Engagement Committee**  
**18-24 Year-Olds Voter Participation Study**

**2018 LWVGLC Planning Meeting Report**

*Erika Graf-Webster, Committee Chair*

**May 2017 – April 2018 Activities**

**18-24 Year Olds Voter Participation Study – Why Don't They Vote and What Would Make Them More Likely to Vote**

Specific objectives and boundaries for this study were developed. Among the goals set were that (1) we would try to obtain about 400 responses, and (2) that the survey would be available online and via smart-phone. We were very fortunate to have Erica Surova, Program Manager of Institutional Analysis at NMSU, agree to help with formulating a valid and representative survey.

A draft of the survey was completed in early January, containing about 25 questions. This draft is available at the NMSU website and via Smart-Phone. We have met with Professors Christina Medina and Thaddieus Connor of NMSU, and they have indicated interest to have NMSU students assist with this survey. We have been invited to meet with Dr. Connor's class on February 27, to discuss this project – they may adopt it as a class project. We have successfully demonstrated the survey to the LCPS Student Advisory Council on January 23, and the members of that Council have expressed interest in helping us administer the survey in the community.

**Youth Engagement Committee (YEC)**

After extensive planning and advocacy, our committee had a real breakthrough in November in a meeting with the Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) Executive Office staff and some teachers, where an agreement was reached that LCPS and the YEC collaborate on a new "Civic Engagement Project". This agreement was reached as a result of our yearlong work with Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson, LCPS Associate Superintendent and YEC member, and a meeting with Dr. Greg Ewing, LCPS Superintendent, who is fully supportive of this effort. The Civic Engagement Project team consists of LCPS Central Office representatives and teachers involved in curricula development in the Elementary, Middle and High School levels. LWVGLC is represented by Jane Asche, Erika Graf-Webster, Scott Krahling. The project team has agreed to the following mission: "To develop a sustainable community-supported civic engagement project that cultivates and activates an informed citizenry". The project team meets monthly, and is working to identify best options for civics curricula.

The YEC is also in the process of engaging NMSU interns that will help with the committee's work, as well as help with LWVGLC's social media development.

**Plans for May 2018 – April 2019**

The YEC plans to administer the 18-24 year-olds voter participation survey both to students in school and to young people no longer in school. We expect that NMSU will assist in the analysis of the results. We expect to publish a full report. We plan to work with LWVGLC Voter Services to create targeted voter education programs for youths, based on the survey results.

We will continue our involvement in the LCPS Civic Engagement Project. Part of that effort is expected to be the tailoring of existing civics curricula developed by the Oregon LWV for teaching in New Mexico. Additional civics resources identified as being available from other Leagues (Texas has some good material) will be brought to bear as appropriate.

Plans are under way to work with KRWG to develop a "Youth Issues" forum – likely with the participation of the Mayfield High School ENLACE students. We hope to have engaged one or two NMSU interns to assist with our committee work and LWVGLC social media development. We also plan to engage a High School intern from the EXCEL program.





## YEC POSTER

The LWVGLC Youth Engagement Committee was founded in May 2016.



**Vision:** To establish permanent and continuing relationships with young people in the community for the purpose of developing a youth engagement program to motivate and engage young people to become active members of the community, active citizens and voters, and to ultimately engage them in the work of the League.

**Accomplishments:** The committee met with several community leaders, including the School Board President and Acting Superintendent, and received their buy-in and support. It established a relationship with the ENGaging LATino Communities for Education (ENLACE) program in Mayfield and Centennial High Schools. With the committee's collaboration, the Mayfield ENLACE class set up their ENLACE research project for last year to be "Voter Participation among 18-29 year-old Millennials". Our committee held several meetings with the Mayfield students to explore this topic and to provide guidance for their research. A final presentation of their research was done at the regional ENLACE conference in mid-March. For this collaboration, the League's Youth Engagement Committee was presented with the *Education Champion Collaboration Award* presented by Ngage New Mexico (a Las Cruces non-profit organization devoted to raising the quality of education in Southern New Mexico). The award citation recognizes the value of our collaboration with ENLACE students, and specifically notes that we promote "how to instill the value of civic and community engagement in young people."

**Current Work:** The committee is currently pursuing two major activities: a *Study of Voter Participation of 18-24 Year-Olds*, and the ongoing planning for the *Development of a Civic Engagement Program*, to be folded into the High School and Middle School curricula. *Study of*

*Voter Participation of 18-24 Year-Olds:* The committee is developing a survey whose objective is to identify why members of this age-group do not vote, and what would it take to make them be more likely to vote. The survey will be conducted both online and in paper form.

*Development of a Civic Engagement Program:* The committee is also currently doing the groundwork for the development of a well-defined Civic Engagement Program, by researching existing capabilities (for example, the League of Women Voters of Oregon's extensive civics course materials). The committee has buy-in for such a program from the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning of Las Cruces Public Schools. The committee is also instituting two methods of recognition for students who help us our work: (1) a League Internship, and (2) a certificate of recognition called "Champion of Civic Engagement", to be awarded annually at a League function. The committee will continue to pursue relationships with other local organizations and schools to further civic action and community involvement among young people.

*For more information, contact Erika Graf-Webster at [grafwebster@icloud.com](mailto:grafwebster@icloud.com)*

## Voter Services Program Planning Report 2018

Dale Yeo & Vicki Simons  
Co-Chairs

Last year Voter Services concentrated on registering voters as well as our traditional forums and Voters Guide. We also conducted a very successful Legislative Dinner attended by an unexpectedly large number of State legislators.

The year 2018 began with a forum conducted with the LCPS for their (successful) Bond Issue followed more recently by one for the Town of Mesilla. It was well attended and an excellent example of what our LWVGLC forums can do to encourage public participation and inform the public. Citizens from Anthony attending that forum have requested one for the City of Anthony, although it is unknown if they can do their part of the planning in time for their election on March 6th.

The rest of 2018 will hold more forums. There are twenty-four elective offices up in November in Doña Ana County and we plan to hold forums, hopefully in conjunction with KRWG, for them.

We are soon starting work on our Voters Guide for the fall elections. We are entertaining the possibility of some basic changes in how we produce and distribute it. We need to present a new Request for Proposal to find a publisher for the next Voters Guide and Who's Who (2018-2019). One of the possibilities we are thinking about is finding a different publisher from the Sun News and distributing it ourselves. There are other possibilities which we may explore for production and distribution.

Another change which we may pursue comes from a major change in policy by the League in all its levels. We are being encouraged to do forums and/or voters guides for the primary elections. It may not happen this year as the necessary resources (time, money and personnel) are in short supply, but it is possible we might put our toe in that water.

Voter registration and engagement has expanded from a Voter Services function to other committees within LWVGLC who are working with various community groups to perform this important function.

And near the end of the year, we hope to be able to speak to our Legislators as we did this last year.

We have a vital part to play in the public life of our community in 2018.

## REPORT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

APRIL 2018

The Affordable Housing Committee has followed the issue in 2017/2018 and will continue to do so during the upcoming League year. We have reviewed various city documents, attended City Council meetings, officially observed Housing Authority meetings, and written one long report for the VOTER.

There has been some progress on the City level. In June 2017 the City Council had a work session on Affordable Housing and thoroughly reviewed the subject. The problem was well outlined.

- There is a need for 4,949 affordable rental units.
- There is need for 4,109 homeownership units.

The City Council is better prepared to address these issues than they were last year. Policies and procedures have been put in place to utilize both the Land Bank and Trust Fund. There is now \$556,165 in the Trust Fund, but it is anticipated that this will increase by about \$100,000 when the proceeds from the sale of the Camunez Building are received.

During its strategic planning process, the City Council placed a high emphasis on affordable housing. An Affordable Housing Policy Committee has been formed with Kassandra Gandara as the chair. The group is composed of City Councilors, staff, and selected community members. League members are monitoring the group and participating as observers.

While the City has made progress, the federal government is moving backwards. Budget submissions from HUD call for a \$6.5 billion reduction in funding. HUD provides the majority of funding for affordable housing in the United States. Local programs are in danger of being cut.

The Affordable Housing Committee continues to seek new members. We meet only occasionally, but our meetings are fun. And, we are the one local group that is following this issue. Our voice is important. If you are interested in joining us, contact one of the following”  
Jane Carter. Christina Little, Victoria Simons, Christie Sorg

ANNUAL REPORT 2018  
OBSERVER CORPS

#### HISTORY

If the League is all about an open and participatory government then observing local civic meetings is an integral part of that purpose. To this end the League Board formed an Observer Corps in the summer of 2017. **Vicki Simons** and I have co-chaired this committee:

- a job description and set of expectations have been written
- a report template for those attending meetings is prepared and in use. Reports are sent to the Chair for archiving and to the Editor of the VOTER for publishing.

#### GOAL

Our target has been to have a team of observers for

- the **Las Cruces City Council**
- the **Dona Ana County Board of Commissioners**
- the **Las Cruces Public Schools Board**
- the **South Central Solid Waste Authority Board**

any other governing body with an elected or appointed board.

*We believe that having more than one observer available to attend any given meeting is necessary, desirable, fair, and part of League members' duties.*

#### RESULTS

Results have been tepid at best. Currently **Mary Ellen Knapp** attends the Las Cruces City Council, **Johnnie Aldrich and Susan Schmugge** attend the South Central Solid Waste Authority, **Susan Schmugge** attends the Las Cruces Utilities Board and Utility Customer Advisory Group meetings, **Vicki Simons** attends the Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority Board. The only new member of the corps is Mary Ellen Knapp.

Other League members occasionally attend civic meetings and submit reports on community issues. **Dale Yeo** has been the "Roving Observer" so far.

An unintended consequence of David Neal's observing the Deming City Council was his resignation as a League Observer because of local government corruption and incompetence.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Schmugge, co-chair

## APPENDIX 5

## RE: APPROVAL OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

**March 1, 2108 LWVGLC Board Meeting Highlights**

Present: Kim Sorensen, Gwen Hanson, Sue Lashley, Christine Sorg, Dale Yeo, Erika Graf-Webster, Vicki Simons

The focus of this meeting was to prepare for the Annual Meeting in April.

The February 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 Minutes were approved as written.

**Reports:**

- Finance – The bank balance stands at \$5,058.92.  
Due to dissatisfaction with Century Link, there was a discussion ensued about switching the League's phone to cell phone service. A quote will be obtained.
- Membership – A number of new members joined since the printing of the Membership Directory; Kim will distribute a list to the membership. Sue Lashley tendered her resignation; a new Membership Director will be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve out her remaining term year.
- Voter Services – Dale reported that the League still plans to do a Voters Guide for the primaries, if the Republicans agree to participate. The Guide will be online (on our website) only.
- Youth Engagement – Erika reported that she gave a presentation about the 18-24 year-olds voter participation survey to an undergraduate class at NMSU. This survey may be taken on as a class project. The collaboration with LCPS on the Civic Engagement Project is working very well.
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – A celebratory picnic will be held on May 5. All prior League members that can be contacted will be invited.

**Preparing for Annual Meeting: 2018-2019 Proposed Budget**

Erika (Budget Committee chair), Kim and William Little had met and developed the proposed budget. One addition, \$500 for the Who's Who, was made. The Board gave unanimous approval.

**Discussions:**

- Donations in Memory of Olga Pedroza – The Board has decided that League members should make their own individual donations for Olga.
- RFP's, Voter Guide, League Signs – The Sun-News will be sending us an invoice for \$1,065.70 for last year's Voters Guide. The Board approve payment of this invoice. A draft RFP for the upcoming Voters Guide (VG) has been developed. and will be taken to the Sun-News, The Bulletin, ABC Printing and InstaCopy to get proposals. Options for

distribution of the VG will be looked into. Kim will ask CAFé about translating it into Spanish.

- League Buttons/Pins – Erika will research the options for buying new League buttons/pins, and come back to the Board with a recommendation.
- Adjusting Speaker Invitations – Since the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary picnic would take place in May, Yvonne Flores will be asked to speak at our June lunch. Plans are for Scott Krahling to be our August speaker, and Prof. Jim Peach will be asked for October.
- Increasing Costs; Increasing Membership Dues – Kim said that most membership renewals are now done online, using PayPal. The League pays a fee of about \$2.00 to PayPal for each such renewal. Discussion ensued about asking online renewers to pay that extra amount, which would mean revising both online and printed membership forms. Erika pointed out that it has been at least 5 years since the League increased its membership fee, and that our expenses, including per-member payments to both the national and the state Leagues had noticeably increased since then. Further discussion led to the consensus that the membership fee should be raised. The motion was made and passed unanimously that we should raise the membership fee to \$65. The motion passed unanimously.
- National Convention Delegates – The LWV National Convention will be June 28 – July 1 in Chicago. LWVGLC is entitled to sending two delegates..
- LWVNM Council May 19<sup>th</sup> – The meeting will be somewhere in northern NM. Kim plans to attend.

## APPENDIX 6

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY NOTIFICATIONS

- PICNICE RSVP
- NOMINATE AN HONOREE
- CONTRIBUTE TO 50<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATIONS

***Reunion Picnic***  
**Saturday, May 5, 2018**  
**11 A.M.- 2 P.M.**  
**Pioneer Women's Park**  
N. Reymond St. and. W. Court Ave.



Reserve \_\_\_\_ box lunches @ \$20 per lunch. (Enclose payment with form.)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



## Honor a League member in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet

The LWVGLC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet will contain

- The history of LWVGLC from 1967 through 2018
- The accomplishments of LWVGLC decade by decade
- Local position statements adopted over 50 years
- LWVGLC members who have been nominated for special commendation by current members.

To nominate a member for commendation, provide this information:

- Name and, if possible, photograph of the person
- Short biography of the person including approximate dates of her membership and her contributions to LWVGLC
- Three to five sentences stating why you commend and appreciate her
- Your name and contact information.
- 

Send to

LWVGLC  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee  
P.O. Box 8322  
Las Cruces, NM 88006  
575-524 VOTE (8683)

***Submissions due by August 1, 2018.***





## Contribute to the LWVGLC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund offers the opportunity to contribute especially to the League of Women Voters of Las Cruces—once in a lifetime. This request is for a contribution above and beyond your usual dues and contributions to LWVGLC.

Contribute either to the LWVGLC Operating Fund *or* the LWVGLC Education Fund. The funds will be managed by the board of LWVGLC.

Operating funds may be used, for example, for scholarships for membership dues; youth engagement projects, advocacy for positions taken after membership study and consensus.

Education funds may be used for voter services activities, for example, candidate information publications and forums; publication of *Who's Who*, an information booklet about elected officials; other non-partisan informational and educational activities.

To contribute to the LWVGLC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund, send your check (with a memo note to "LWVGLC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund") to the address below

LWVGLC  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund  
P.O. Box 8322  
Las Cruces, NM 88006  
575-524 VOTE (8683)

## APPENDIX 7

## BONNIE BURN SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

**Bonnie Burn Scholarship**

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces Education Scholarship in Honor of Bonnie Burn, administered by the Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation, Inc., was adopted February 9, 2015. Members, friends and family made many generous contributions to this scholarship fund last year. In order to sustain this scholarship additional contributions are needed. March has been designated as the month each year to bring attention to this fundraising effort. Criteria for this scholarship was established by our League, and includes the following:

- The funds will provide one \$1,000 (non-renewable) scholarship each year
- To a graduating senior from the Las Cruces school district
- Who plans to major in education at NMSU in the College of Education
- During the Fall of each year

All donations to the LWVGLC Education Scholarship in Honor of Bonnie Burn are to be made directly to the Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation, Inc. with a designation in the memo line of your check. This designation must name the Bonnie Burn Scholarship in order to be credited to that scholarship fund; otherwise the donation will be credited to the general fund of the Foundation.

Send your tax-deductible contribution to the following:

Betsy A. Geery, Executive Director  
Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation  
P.O. Box 16214  
Las Cruces, NM 88004

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution to this worthwhile scholarship