



the VOTER

*League of Women Voters of  
Greater Las Cruces*

**December 2017**

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## ***DINNER WITH OUR LEGISLATIVE LEADERS***

**Monday, December 11th, 2017 (5:00-7 p.m.)**

To accommodate scheduling needs of the legislators, we have changed our traditional breakfast to a dinner at our usual monthly time and place:

**Good Samaritan Social Center  
3011 Buena Vida Circle  
Las Cruces**

After dinner, each legislator will have the opportunity to talk about what he or she hopes to accomplish in the upcoming legislative session and to comment on some of the major issues to be resolved. The meeting will then be open to questions by League members and their guests. Any or all of the legislators may answer. This is a busy time, but we hope you will participate in listening to our legislators' concerns and passing on our concerns to them.

## ***MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT***

If there were a theme this fall for the LWVGLC I would say it is LEAGUERS RISE UP. The Citizen Lobbyist Training on October 21<sup>st</sup> that we co-sponsored with Common Cause, the State Board Meeting November 11, and the Dinner with a Leader on the 13<sup>th</sup> all centered around that theme. Many of you are experts at Citizen Advocacy and I encourage you to mentor those of us who are new at it. Go to our website [lwvglc.org/](http://lwvglc.org/) under Citizen Advocacy for information about tips and resources.

One word for Julianna Koob, the presenter at the dinner on the 13<sup>th</sup>: **Powerful**. It truly was one of the best presentations I've attended. Here are a few take-a ways. 1) The majority of south central New Mexicans believe that a woman's decision to have an abortion should be between her, her family, and her doctor. 2) New Mexico is threatened every year with anti-

abortion legislation; we are surrounded by states where women have no access to abortion and the number is growing. 3) If we are going to protect a woman's right to a safe and legal abortion, we must be willing to talk to our legislators and others about a personal experience (whether our own or people we know).

Mark your calendars. **Proclamations!!!!** On December 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 at City Hall and December 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 at the County Government Building, 2018 will be proclaimed to be **THE YEAR OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER LAS CRUCES**. This will be the kickoff to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. It will be fabulous if we have our almost 90 members attend both meetings!!!



Also, please try to attend the **Dinner with a Legislator on December 11<sup>th</sup>** from 5-7 pm at Good Samaritan. Many of the state legislators in our district have committed to this event and it's important that we respond in kind with a good turnout. We had to change the date and time due to conflicts with the legislators and with Good Samaritan. If you do not like to drive in the dark, I will make sure you have a ride. Please email me.

I am wishing you all much joy, peace, and compassion this holiday season.

Warm Regards,  
Kim Sorensen, President



## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

December 4th	1:00 p.m. City Hall Proclamation Presentation
December 6th	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting Branigan Library Board Room
December 11th	Dinner with the Legislature 5:00-7:00 p.m. Good Samaritan's
December 12th	9:00 a.m. County Government Building Proclamation Presentation

# PROCLAMATIONS

Monday, December 4, 1:00 p.m. Council Chambers, City Hall

Tuesday, December 12, 9:00 a.m. County Government Building

- This is the kickoff event for the LWVGLC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.
- This will proclaim 2018 League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces YEAR.
- The Proclamation will state the LWVGLC has been and IS a strong civic organization that has worked for good government and promotes active participation of citizens.
- The attendance of a large number of League members will SHOW that LWVGLC is a significant organization for civic engagement in local government.
- Plan to attend these meetings. Invite other League members and offer them a ride.
- Questions? Contact Johnnie Aldrich, [jraldrich@earthlink.net](mailto:jraldrich@earthlink.net), 522-1544.



## ***A CALL TO LEADERSHIP - CELEBRATING OUR 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY***

by Win Jacobs

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has agreed that learning to lead should be one of the hallmarks of LWVGLC's celebration of its half-century of community service. Accordingly, the Committee and Board alike are proposing four forum topics inviting the development of new leadership.

- ***Electoral Issues of 2018 and Beyond*** will focus on issues such as
  - Redistricting & gerrymandering
  - Voter inclusion & suppression
  - Integrity of representation
- ***Sharing Our Valley*** will focus on environmental and quality of life issues such as
  - Land use
  - Planning and zoning
  - Equitable and sustainable water use
  - Affordable housing
  - Transportation
- ***Education*** will focus on
  - Early childhood education
  - Standards, measurements and evaluation of outcomes
  - Funding
- ***Health*** will focus on
  - Mental/behavioral issues in Doña Ana County
  - Health Security Plan for New Mexico

Wonderful ideas! We need volunteers to implement them. A few have already stepped forward: Peter Ossorio on *Electoral Issues*, Jane Asche on *Education*. *Sharing Our Valley* is so broad that, while Win Jacobs is willing to serve as over-all coordinator, lead ponies for each of the segments are needed. Vicki Simons has spearheaded *Health* for many years and she is willing to be a consultant but not an organizer.

The embryonic plan of action is to hold ***Electoral Issues*** January 30 at Temple Beth El, then ***Education*** in August, ***Health*** in September, and ***Sharing Our Valley*** in November. If you are interested in making dreams become realities, call Win at 521-9331 or e-mail her at [winjacobs1@gmail.com](mailto:winjacobs1@gmail.com); we will schedule a meeting early in January.

**VOLUNTEERS WILL MAKE THIS HAPPEN: no action is possible without a commitment to lead.**

## **WELCOME NEW OFFICERS**

Transitioning mid-term into LWVGLC leadership roles are Christine Sorg as Vice-President and William Little as Treasurer. (Sharon Shoemaker has moved from Las Cruces and Steve Litts was serving as Interim treasurer.)

Christine, always a strong advocate for voting, joined LWVGLC a few years ago. She moved to Las Cruces in 1998 and is an enthusiastic community member. Originally from Denver, after college Christine joined the Peace Corps and taught science to elementary school teachers in Ghana, West Africa for two years. Her degrees are in Zoology and Medical Technology and Microbiology. Married to Gill Sorg in 1972, they lived in McCone County, Montana farming and ranching for 21 years.



William has been a League member since the mid-80's – in Austin TX, Albuquerque, and here.

He has served as local League treasurer in Austin and Albuquerque, La Palabra Editor, parliamentarian for many LWV/GLC annual meetings, quality reviewer for LWV/GLC treasurer, and informal assistant to Christina Little in her many League roles. This means he has provided emergency help when and wherever needed. William's skills with detail and technology have assisted most recently in updating the membership list with an eye to accuracy and our need for technology archiving.



## **CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

Membership Director Sue Lashley has been working to update the membership list. Names have been added to the VOTER mailing list. William Little is shaping the list into an accurate electronic master list. Please welcome these members to and add them to your directory.

Megann Cretsinger (student affiliate)

[3849 Mondale Loop](#)

[Las Cruces NM 88005](#)

[214 698 9612](#)

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[5213 Nephite Ct.](#)  
[Las Cruces. NM 88012](#)  
[575 646 3352](#) and [575 621 2079](#)  
[surova@nmsu.edu](mailto:surova@nmsu.edu)

### ***CORRECTION***

Please correct the Joseph Cervantes entry in the directory. The address should be [2610 S. Espina](#), not 2600. The email address is [joseph@cervanteslawnm.com](mailto:joseph@cervanteslawnm.com), with a "t".

## ***THE OBSERVERS POST***

### ***OBSERVERS NEEDED***

Submitted by Susan Schmugge

**Mary Ellen Knapp** is looking for someone to attend the **Las Cruces City Council** meeting on Dec. 4. If you are willing to do this please contact Mary Ellen, Vicki Simons or Susan Schmugge. The League is looking for more Observers and when someone cannot attend a meeting they would call a teammate to cover for them. Usually 2 people work in a team and share the responsibilities. We have job descriptions, instructions for writing your reports for the VOTER, name tags--what more could you want? And you'll have a great time!

### ***OBSERVER REPORT*** by Susan Schmugge

South Central Solid Waste Authority

Regular Meeting Nov. 16, 2017

Present: Solis, Rawson, Gandara, Dr. Garcia, McMahon

Absent: Miyagishima, Vasquez, Perea

After the Director's Administrative & Financial reports the Authority unanimously approved 4 resolutions:

The first 2 were a renegotiated Joint Powers Agreement that separates fiscal roles between the Authority, City of Las Cruces, and Dona Ana County and allows the Authority to issue bonds with any one of the other 2 agencies. Among immediate changes will be quarterly instead of monthly meetings. The new agreement allows the Authority to expand its role in our region. The City of Las Cruces will still provide financial oversight, accounting and audit services. Approval of accounting resolutions followed. The next meeting will be in January, 2018.

**OBSERVER REPORT** by Mary Ellen Knapp

Las Cruces, NM City Council, November 6, 2017  
Regular Meeting

Mayor and all Councilors were present

Items of particular interest were:

**The president of the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce and the owner of Pic Quik convenience stores have requested the Council reconsider the 2014 Minimum Wage ordinance.**

The unexpected announcement of a January 1, 2018, cost-of-living increase created great concern within the business community. The president of the Chamber of Commerce and the owner of Pic Quik stores addressed the Council, requesting review of the ordinance prior to the swearing-in of newly elected councilors at the November 20, 2017, Council meeting.

**APPROVED** - Authorized sale of 201 N. Main property, formerly known as the Camunez Building, to Las Cruces Community Partners. Agreement was amended to give Council final design approval of east and south facades. (7 ayes)

**APPROVED** - Adopted distribution of City's portion of proceeds from sale of 201 N. Main property. Las Cruces' 50% share of proceeds is \$100,000, which will be invested 50% to Affordable Housing Trust Fund and 50% to Economic Development Fund. (6 ayes, 1 absent)

**APPROVED** – Adopted the Renovate Main Street incentive Program, which matches, dollar-for-dollar, private investment of \$25,000 for upgrading downtown property. Total program funds available January through December, 2018, are \$250,000. (7 ayes)

**OBSERVER REPORT** by David Neal

Meeting attended: Deming City Council  
Date submitted November 14, 2017  
Regular Meeting

One member of five absent

At this Council meeting there were regular items including Proclamations, approval of appointments to various boards and minutes' approvals.

It is noted that during a discussion of a proposed bond proposal Councilman Dr. Victor Cruz expressed opposition to such. However, when a motion was made to approve the general obligation bond question, Dr. Cruz voted in the affirmative. In fact, all votes by the council were unanimous--no dissenting votes on any issue



In addition, Council approved a 150' tower proposed by Verizon. It was not disclosed, however, who owns the land where the tower is to be built. The city may very well own the site/property and may be receiving monthly fees for the tower. This was not disclosed. As at all other Council meetings, the Mayor deferred to the City Clerk for explanatory remarks on all issues.



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NOTE: THE PROCLAMATION POSTER IS  
ATTACHED ADDITIONALLY AS A SEPARATE  
FILE FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO PRINT IT.

### **DECEMBER 2017 VOTER**

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