

The VOTER



League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
Web Site: www.lwvglc.org
February 2016

Annual Program Planning for Study and Action Lunch with a Leader

**Monday February 8, 2016
10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Good Samaritan Social Center
Creative Arts Room
3011 Buena Vida Circle**

We will begin the February meeting with a "Time of Remembrance" for Bonnie Burn and Marnie Leverett. Members are invited to share memories of these two wonderful women. We are asking that your remembrances be written, so that they can be given to their respective spouses, Bob Burn and Jim Leverett - both League members.

Developing program issues for study and action will be undertaken by the Greater Las Cruces League at the February Lunch with a Leader Meeting. This is an annual event for all local Leagues. The purpose of program planning is to gather League members: to review current local League positions; to discuss issues of common interest - that can be resolved by local government; to propose a program that will be presented for adoption by Members at the Annual Meeting in April. These identified issues will determine both advocacy and education efforts for the upcoming year. Recommendations will be presented to the LWVGLC Board of Directors at the March 10, 2016, meeting for approval.

Recommendations are considered by three criteria: (1) Is there widespread member interest? (2) Is this a timely issue? (3) Is government action the most effective way to address the problem?

Program recommendations at both the local and national levels, require a brief statement of 300 words or less, that describes the scope of the study. Please be mindful of the resources that would be needed - both money and volunteer time.

Local League Positions can be found in the Membership Directory, pp. 28-34, or www.lwvglc.org.
LWVNM Positions are available at www.lwvnm.org/ HYPERLINK "http://www.lwvnm.org/"v HYPERLINK "http://www.lwvnm.org/"nm.org.
LWVUS Positions are available at www.lwv.org.

All members are invited to participate in this very important activity. **Please RSVP Ardyth Norem by February 1, 2016, at 556-9251.**

CALENDAR

February 2016

February 1 – Deadline for reservations for Annual Program Planning Meeting.

February 3 & 4 – League Day at the Legislature 2016

February 3 – Legislative Reception, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Garrett's Desert Inn, 311 Old Santa Fe Trail, "Budget Issues", Richard Ankam, President/ Executive Director of the New Mexico Tax Research Institute, Former Assistant Secretary/Director of Tax Policy for the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue.

February 4 – League Day, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Garrett's Desert Inn, "Ethics Commission", Paul Biderman, Former Director of the Institute of Public Law, Santa Fe Ethics and Campaign Review Board Member, Ethics Trainer, and Legislative Staffer.

"Budget and Tax Policies", Bill Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor/Government Relations, NM Voices for Children.

February 5 – February Board Meeting – 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Home of Ardyth Norem.

February 8 – Annual Program Planning Meeting, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Good Sam's, Creative Arts Room, \$12.00. **Reservations Required.**

February 14—Valentine's day

February 18 – Closing Day - NM State 30-day Legislative Session.

February 18 - Third Thursday Book Club, 2:00 p.m., Home of Dale Yeo. Running From Office: Why Young American Are Turned Off to Politics by Jennifer L. Lawless.

February 20 - New Member Tea and Orientation, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Home of Gwen Hanson.

The VOTER

Volume 47, Issue 8— February 2016
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**The League of Women Voters of
Greater Las Cruces**

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

President - Gwen Hanson

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and Speakers**
Ardyth Norem

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Treasurer - Ruth Benjamins

Director, Membership
Yvonne-Magdalena Flores

Co-Directors, Voter Services
Marcia Anderson &
Dale Yeo

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Elected Member: Johnnie Aldrich

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Christina Little-373-1882

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Ruth Benjamins - 527-0204

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

Health Care
Vicki Simons - 522-4813

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

Metropolitan Court
Marjorie Burr - 522-2528

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

Water Issues
Win Jacobs - 521-9331

Action Committee
Barbara Goedecke - 522-0323

President's Message

Gwendolyn (Gwen) Hanson

February 2016

The original "Message" was submitted prior to the news that two highly esteemed members had passed away in the same week, Bonnie Burn - January 20 and Marnie Leverett - January 21. Our members will have the opportunity to share special memories and celebrate the lives of these two wonderful women at the February 8 meeting. It will be a time of expressing our appreciation and gratitude to Bonnie and Marnie for their leadership, mentoring, and modeling of what it means to be a member the League of Women Voters. Please plan to attend.

Because our last VOTER Newsletter was for both December, 2015 and January 2016, it seems like a long time since we have communicated with our membership. Holidays have come and gone, the arrival of a new calendar year has been celebrated, and we are already anticipating the Spring!

We greet the new year with enthusiasm for the "things yet to come"! On the horizon is the annual program planning meeting where we will review where we are and where we want to be. Members have the opportunity to bring new issues for our membership to review, discuss, and recommend for the upcoming year. It is also a time to reflect on those issues that continue to be of interest to us. This year our local League will be recommending a change in the language of an existing National League Position Statement on Immigration – a very big deal! The NM State Board approved the changes at the quarterly meeting, held Saturday, January 16, 2016, in Socorro. Yvonne Flores, Co-Chairman, Immigration Committee, did a great job of presenting the committee's recommendations for LWVUS Position Statement changes to the State Board. Members of the Immigration Committee have worked diligently for months in studying and advocating for the changes. Immigration Committee members include: Co-Chairs, Yvonne Flores and Sue Cain, and members Jane Carter, Aletta Wilson, Judy LaPointe, Olga Pedroza, Marjorie Burr, and Gwen Hanson.

Thank you to our NM State Representatives Bill Soules, Bill McCamley and Jeff Steinborn, and State Senator Joseph Cervantes for their participation in our Annual Legislative Breakfast in December.

A very special thank you to Peter Ossorio for his willingness to be our Discussion Leader at our "Money in Politics" Unit Meetings in January.

Thank you to all the members who:

- ◆ Made donations to the Las Cruces Gospel Rescue Mission in December, 2015.
- ◆ Attended our Annual Legislative Breakfast.
- ◆ Attended the very informative presentation by Randy Shaw on water and desalination, January 11, 2016.
- ◆ Participated in the "Money in Politics" Unit Meetings, January 21 and January 28, 2016.
- ◆ Worked diligently to advocate for improving our community.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces looks forward to the challenges of a new year.



Board Meeting Highlights, Gwen Hanson Reporting**Highlights of the January 2016 Board Meeting
January 7, 2016, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Home of Gwen Hanson**

Present: Gwen Hanson, Sadie Valverde, Ruth Benjamins, Yvonne Flores, Erika Graf-Webster, Dale Yeo

Absent: Jennifer Coppolo, Ardyth Norem, Marcia Anderson

Guests: Olga Pedroza, Judith LaPointe, Sue Cain

This Board Meeting began with the work of the Immigration Committee, represented by Co-Chairs Yvonne Flores and Sue Cain, who explained the proposal for changing some the wording of the LWVUS Position Statement on Immigration. The proposal was approved by the LWVGLC Board – Dale Yeo moved to accept the recommendations, Ruth Benjamins seconded, and the Board unanimously approved. This proposal will be presented for approval to the LWVNM Board on January 16, 2016, Socorro, NM.

Two additional Immigration Committee members, Olga Pedroza and Judith LaPointe, were present. Olga Pedroza reported having been asked by Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima to represent the City of Las Cruces in an issue of immigration. More than seventy (70) entities, including governments of entire cities and some simply mayors from different cities across the US, signed on to the Petition for Cert in the Supreme Court. Because of time constraints the City of Las Cruces was unable to sign by the deadline. Ms. Pedroza was asked to research the issue by seeking to define the level of support in the community. She asked LWVGLC to join ACLU and other interested organizations in favor of DACA and DAPA (“Dreamers”) nationally. Yvonne Flores moved to support, and Ruth Benjamins seconded the motion to support this effort. The Board approved unanimously. UPDATE: As of 1/21/2016, The Supreme Court has “accepted Cert”, which means they will review the case.

The Annual Meeting, scheduled for April 16, 2016, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., will be held this year at the Picacho Country Club. More information will be available at a later date from Ardyth Norem.

Events in January include: (1) Lunch with a Leader with Randy Shaw presenting. Mr. Shaw is the Manager of the Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility in Alamoogordo. He will speak about water issues – locally and nationally, and desalination; (2) LWVNM State Board Meeting, when the Immigration Committee will present a proposal to change some of the wording of the LWVUS Position Statement on Immigration; and, two “Money in Politics” Unit Meetings to study and reach consensus about the LWVUS proposal for study and action at the 2016 National Convention.

February 3-4 will be the LWVNM Reception for Legislators and League Day activities. All interested members are encouraged to make reservations. The NM State Legislative 30- day session opens January 19, and closes February 18, 2016, in Santa Fe.

The Annual Program Planning Meeting, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., was discussed. Proposals for the upcoming year must be submitted in writing, 300 words or less, at the February meeting.

Erika Graf-Webster reported on the reconstituted Dona Ana County Election Advisory Council, a consortium of community organizations and groups who work to increase citizen participation in elections through voter registration and voter turnout activities. Erika was elected Secretary.

Meeting was adjourned.



League News



IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO LWVUS IMMIGRATION POSITION ANNOUNCED APRIL 2008

Sue Cain and Yvonne-Magdalena Flores, Reporting

The Immigration Committee ("Committee") of LWV of Greater Las Cruces ("LWVGLC") has been working diligently on proposing changes to the LWV-United States ("LWVUS") to assure every person's constitutional and civil rights are protected. These changes came about after sharing a wealth of experiences as attorneys, educators, a former Labor Commissioner, and long term community members engaged in immigration issues.

After Committee approval, the changes were presented the LWVGLC Board which approved after making further changes. The next step was to present the proposed changes the LWV of New Mexico ("LWVNM") Board at its meeting on January 16, 2016 in Socorro.

The LWVNM Board meeting was attended by all of the 4 New Mexico League Presidents and other officers. The proposed changes were well received by all present. Board members who have participated in League Convention were very helpful with the practicality of presenting the proposed changes in a manner that would be adopted by the LWVUS membership. After making additional changes, the LWVNM Board voted unanimously to forward this to Leagues throughout the United States and ultimately to LWVUS Convention in June 2016.

The rights of persons entering the country without inspection and persons otherwise in the United States continue to be challenged. There has been an exponential increase of Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents along the Mexican border and at check points.

For example, a couple of months ago, a young man who is lawfully in the United States, was traveling from Las Cruces to Deming. At checkpoints, a CBP officer takes a cursory look at the driver and passenger(s) and allows them to continue.

This young man was "stopped". He has retained counsel who is suing the government. The case will necessarily challenge the initial "stop". Why was he stopped in the first place? Were there objective data which gave rise to the stop? Was there an outstanding arrest warrant? Or was the stop due to fitting a racial profile?

WE  OUR MEMBERS!

NEW MEMBER TEA AND ORIENTATION

February 20th 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Gwen Hanson's Home

1219 Dry Creek Place

Phone: 575.556.9251



League News



“Building Your Capacity”

Dona Ana County, County Clerk’s Office: External Review Committee Report

“Risk Evaluation of the Protection of Private Personal Information Collected by the Dona Ana County Clerk’s Office”

donaanacounty.org/sites/default/files/pagesExternal_Review_Committee_Report_Final.pdf

LWVUS Consensus Studies:

1. Constitutional Amendment

forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study

2. Money in Politics

forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review

3. “Money in Politics” Review

<http://forum.lwv.org/category/> HYPERLINK "<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>"m HYPERLINK "<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>"ember-resources/our-work/money-politics-review

4. Study Guide for the “Money in Politics” Consensus (includes consensus questions)

<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/study-guide-money-politics-consensus>"wv.o HYPERLINK "<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/study-guide-money-politics-consensus>"r HYPERLINK "<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/study-guide-money-politics-consensus>"g HYPERLINK "<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/study-guide-money-politics-consensus>"/ HYPERLINK "<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/study-guide-money-politics-consensus>"member-resources/a HYPERLINK "<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/study-guide-money-politics-consensus>"r HYPERLINK "<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/study-guide-money-politics-consensus>"ticle/study-guide-money-politics-consensus

5. Voter Registration in a Digital Age: 2015 Update

www.Brennancenter.org/publication/voter-registration-digital-age-2015-update



League News



Building Capacity (Continued from page 5)

Immigration

Strengthening Communities by Welcoming All Residents: A Federal Strategic Action Plan on Immigrant & Refugee Integration. The White House Task Force on New Americans, April 2015.

www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/final_tf_newamericans_report_4-14-15_clean.pdf

– Impact on Issues. 2014-2016. A Guide to Public Policy Positions, League of Women Voters of the United States pp.73-74, Immigration.

www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues

The League's Position - Immigration - April 2008

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the United States on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the United States.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

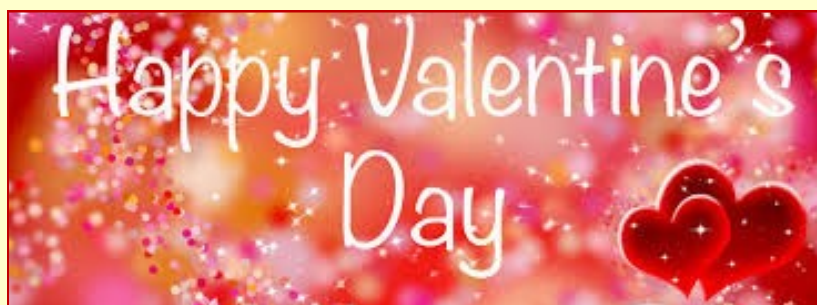
In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

*Please read (1) Criteria for Legal Admission to the United States; (2) Administration and Enforcement; and (3) Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the United States for complete understanding of the Position Statement.

Legislator's Link:

<http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/legislator.aspx?T=S> Easiest way to find a legislator's sponsored legislation, contact info, and committees.



In Memoriam....

We mourn the loss of two members, **Bonnie Burn** and **Marnie Leverett**. Bonnie passed away in the early hours of Wednesday, January 20, and Marnie Leverett passed away in the evening of Thursday, January 21, 2016. Both women were past presidents and left significant legacies of their service to our community. They will be well-remembered and sorely missed.

Bonnie Burn - President 2009-2013 – A Tribute from Meredith Machen, President LWVNM

“Bonnie Burn was an extraordinary person and an exemplary League member and leader. She was my mentor, trusted colleague, and dear friend. I miss her deeply. She fought valiantly for public education, immigrant rights, affordable housing, civic participation, and other causes right up until her death. When she received special recognition for her work, she took the opportunity to promote the work of the League and to urge officials to make decisions in the best interest of the community...not for political or personal gain.” Services for Bonnie will be at the Muehlig Funeral Chapel, Ann Arbor, Michigan on February 6th.

Marnie Leverett – President 2003-2005 – A Tribute from Win Jacobs and William and Christina Little. “Marnie Leverett passed away Thursday evening, January 21, 2016 at La Posada. Marnie was a two-term League President and was honored with an honorary life-time membership. She left a legacy of service to our community. She will be sorely missed and well-remembered by her many friends. She enriched our Las Cruces league with her dedication and wisdom of 50+ years of League experience, garnered in Ohio and New York as well as the last 22 years in Las Cruces. She chaired the Land Use study committee, served as president from 2003-05, and managed throughout her Las Cruces years to be very actively involved in Voter Services. We will long remember her with admiration and deep affection: she saw things to be done and did them.” A Celebration of Life will be held for Marnie Leverett at

Celebration of Marriage

Mildred Evaskovich and **Harold “Pete” Steen** were married December 15, 2015, in the Chapel of Good Samaritan Society Social Center. They invited friends and family to celebrate their recent marriage with a reception, January 16, 2016. Congratulations to you both





League News



League Day at the Legislature 2016 **February 3 and 4**

Legislative Reception
Wednesday, February 3, 5:30 -7:30
Garrett's Desert Inn, 311 Old Santa Fe Trail*

Budget Issues with Richard Anklam: President/Executive Director of the New Mexico Tax Research Institute, Former Assistant Secretary/Director of Tax Policy for the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue

League Day at the Legislature
Thursday, February 4, 10:30 to Noon
Garrett's Desert Inn

Ethics Commission with Paul Biderman: Former Director of the Institute of Public Law, Santa Fe Ethics and Campaign Review Board Member; ethics trainer, and legislative staffer.

Budget and Tax Policies with Bill Jordan, Senior Policy Adviser/Government Relations, NM Voices for Children.

LWVNM sends email Action Alerts during the session on bills we support or oppose, and what action you can take. If you wish to receive a few emails about what's happening, click on the link below and reply when asked. [LWVNM Action](#)

* Garrett's Desert Inn, located near the capitol, is offering us a special group rate of \$60 plus \$10 per each additional person (not including tax) for any size room based on availability. Call 1-800-888-2145 or 505-982-1851 to reserve a room. Reserve your room with the code "Swing Vote" to get this rate.



Membership Directory Update New Members

Please welcome our newest members to the LWVGLC and add their information to your membership directory.

Bill Soules,
5054 Silver King
Las Cruces, NM 88011
Tel: 575.640.0409
Email: billsoules@hotmail.com

Cassie McClure
1545 Camino Del Rex
Las Cruces, NM
Tel: 575.312.3242
Email: cassiemclure@gmail.com

Elisabeth Miller
518 N. Telshor Blvd., Suite C
Las Cruces, NM
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elisabeth.l.miller@icloud.com

Virginia Yribia
4641 Maxim Ct.
Las Cruces, NM 88011
Phone: 575.522.5225
Cell: 720.217.7575
Email: nmcelt@hotmail.com

Talea Alberson
105 Navajo Rd.
Las Cruces, NM 88007
Tel: 575.644.0622
Email: tandealberson@gmail.com



Third Thursday Book Club Meeting 2:00-4:00 p.m.

February 18 at 2:00p.m. – *Running From Office: Why Young American Are Turned Off to Politics* by Jennifer L. Lawless.

At the home of Dale Yeo. Please call 575-405-7530 for directions.



Help Grow Our Numbers



Invite a friend, colleague, or relative to join us.

Membership:
\$60 - INDIVIDUAL
\$30 - 2nd Household

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



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*Las
Cruces
City*

FIRST CLASS

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Information Links

LWV - Greater Las Cruces

www.lwvglc.org

LWV - GLC Who's Who

www.lwvglc.org

LWV - New Mexico

www.lwvnm.org

LWV - United States

www.lwv.org

City of Las Cruces

www.las-cruces.org

Las Cruces Public Schools

www.lcps.ks12.nm.us

New Mexico State University

www.nmsu.edu

Dona Ana Community College

<http://dacc.nmsu.edu>

Dona Ana County

<http://donaanacounty.org>

State of New Mexico

www.newmexico.gov

New Mexico Secretary of State

www.sos.state.nm.us

New Mexico Legislature

www.nmlegis.gov/lcs

U.S. Senate

www.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives

www.house.gov

U.S. White House

www.whitehouse.gov

Membership Application

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

Date: _____

Name: _____

2nd Household: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Contributions:

_____ League of Women Voters Education
Fund (Tax Deductible)

_____ LWV of Greater Las Cruces
(Not tax deductible)

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

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