



the VOTER

League of Women Voters of
Greater Las Cruces

January 2018

Volume 49

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LUNCH – PREPARATION FOR CONSENSUS: NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

Featuring Karen Douglas LWVNM

January 8, 2018, 11:30 – 1:00 Good Samaritans

In part because New Mexico is the site of a proposed interim (160 years) repository of spent fuel nuclear waste, LWVNM approved a study and formed a statewide committee to revise and update LWVNM's work, ***The Nuclear Waste Primer, A Handbook for Citizens, revised 1993***.

Karen Douglas, who is chairing the committee, will be the featured presenter at our January 8, 2018 lunch meeting. Karen serves as LWVNM Director and chairs the LWV Nuclear Waste Storage Study Committee. Karen holds a Bachelors degree in Biomedical/Nuclear Engineering from UNM and a Master of Science in Materials Science and Engineering from Stanford University. *(More about Karen Douglas on page 7)*

To prepare members for upcoming consensus questions, the Committee is presenting to local leagues and publishing ongoing articles in each issue of ***La Palabra***. The first two articles appeared in Summer 2017 and Fall 2017 editions of ***La Palabra***. The summer article, written by Karen Douglas, is "Nuclear Waste Storage in US – Where we are and where we may be going." Laura Atkins wrote the fall article, "Does the League support the development of consolidated interim storage sites (CISF) for spent nuclear fuel?" Upcoming issues of ***La Palabra*** will continue the strand of information and keep you informed of developments in the study as they occur.

A new version of the ***Primer*** is being commissioned with a technically qualified team from Longenecker & Associates. The committee is seeking funding for the technical research and writing from the Department of Energy.

Please plan to attend the January 8, 2018 luncheon to further your learning about this important topic. A preview power point presentation is attached as a separate document for your preparation.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2018 YEAR OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS GREATER LAS CRUCES

Greetings LWVGLC,



Welcome to the Year of the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces! We have exciting things planned for 2018 including some forums, an historical movable display, a picnic, and a banquet. Thanks to all who attended one or both of the Proclamations. And thanks to Marjorie for chairing the committee and being a founder, Johnnie for writing the proclamation, and the rest of the 50th Anniversary Committee for working hard to make it a year to remember for

LWVGLC.

We had a wonderful turnout for the Dinner with Legislators Dec. 11. Almost 60 members, guests and legislators attended. Legislators attending included: Representatives Doreen Gallegos, Bill McCamley, Rudy Martinez, Nathan Small, and Rick Little and senators Bill Soules, Joseph Cervantes, and Ron Griggs. The Topics of discussion included the budget, Education, legalizing marijuana, alternative energy and more—too much to talk about—too little time.

We were saddened to hear that one of our members, Mary Ann Flynn, passed away Monday December 11. We honor Mary Ann's life and our condolences go out to her family and friends.

The Legislative Reception IN SANTA FE will be January 31 followed by League Day February 1. This is a worthwhile event. Talks on legislation, opportunities to attend committee hearings, meeting members from other chapters, and the chance to visit Santa Fe are great reasons to attend. I hope you will do so. I would love the company.

I wish you all the happiest of New Years.

Warmly,
Kim Sorensen, President

Upcoming Events

January 4	10-12 a.m.	LWVGLC Board Meeting, Branigan Library
January 8	11:30-1:00	Lunch Preparation for Consensus Topic: Nuclear Waste Study Good Samaritan
January 20	1:00 p.m.	LWVNM Board Meeting, Socorro
January 30	5:30-7:30	League Reception with Legislators, Santa Fe, Garrett's Desert Inn

League of Women Voters of New Mexico
League Days at the Legislature 2018
January 31 and February 1

Legislative Dinner: A Full House

December 11, 2017



Legislators right to left: Doreen Gallegos, Rudy Martinez, Bill McCamley, Bill Soules, Joseph Cervantes, Ron Griggs, Rick Little, Nathan Small



In lively, civil, and courteous dialog, League members exchanged ideas and found commonalities with New Mexico Legislators.



IT'S HAPPENING! 50th ANNIVERSARY LEADERSHIP FORUM # 1

A public forum on Electoral Issues is slated for Jan.30, 2018, 7-9 p.m. at Temple Beth El, 3980 Sonoma Springs Ave, Las Cruces NM 88004. Co-hosted by LWVGLC and Temple Beth El's social action committee, this will be the first in a projected series of forums focused on civic concerns throughout our League's 50th anniversary year.

TBE Social Action chair Ned Rubin will welcome the audience. Anniversary Committee member Win Jacobs will briefly review the relevant League positions and the process by which we arrive at positions. LWVGLC member Peter Ossorio will moderate the opening panel discussion; panelists will be Scott Krahling, Dona Ana County Clerk; Viki Harrison, NM Common Cause; and Randy Harris of Great Conversations. Temple members and League members will work together in distributing/collecting/reviewing audience questions submitted on index cards. Plans are underway for the session to be broadcast by KTAL, our new community radio station, as well as taped for rebroadcast.

Panel presentations may include campaign finance, gerrymandering, voter outreach including restoration of voting rights for felons, challenges of language barriers and a geographically large county, limitations on involvement of homeless and near-homeless people, as well as college students. Audience questions will throw the window wide open on these and any other topics of concern.

Submitted by Win Jacobs

2018: Year of the League of Women Voters Greater Las Cruces

Gwen Hanson, Judith LaPointe, Sue Cain, Marjorie Burr, Kim Sorensen, Johnnie Aldrich, Sadie Valenzuela, Dale Yeo at City Proclamation



In December 2017 both the City Council of Las Cruces and the Doña Ana County Commissioners proclaimed 2018 the Year of the League of Women Voters Greater Las Cruces. The League is celebrating its 50th Anniversary.



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

Report to LWVGLC Board, December 4, 2017

Erika Graf-Webster, Committee Chair

These reports cover the activities of the study group and the committee for September through November of 2017.

18-24 Year Olds Voter Participation Study

During this time period, the study group spent its efforts on the development and refinement of the questions that we would like to ask on the proposed survey. Among the decisions made in this timeframe were the following: (1) The survey would not be limited to only 10 questions, but would likely run about 25 questions; (2) Demographic information would be captured; (3) The survey would be available in both paper and online form for administration, and the online version would be available via smartphone. We may get help from NMSU with the survey – see report on our meeting with Dr. Medina, below.

Youth Engagement Committee (YEC)

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, that occurred in October. Dr. Ewing was fully supportive of our approach for bringing more civic education and engagement into the school curriculum, and designated Dr. Roberto Lozano of his staff to be our contact to the Superintendent’s office. The Civic Engagement Project team consists of four members of the LCPS Central Office (including Wendi Miller-Tomlinson) representing the Elementary, Middle and High School levels of curricula development, three LCPS teachers representing major High Schools, and three YEC members – Jane Asche, Erika Graf-Webster, Scott Krahling (Scott had discussed bringing more information about voting and civic responsibility into the LCPS in the past). 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”.

Meeting with Dr. Christina Medina; NMSU Support for YEC, Possible Interns

Dr. Medina was supportive of our proposed 18-24 year-olds voter participation survey, and said that one of the professors within the Department of Government might take on this effort as a class project. She referred us to Dr. Thaddeus Connor, who has since then contacted me, and confirmed his interest. We will be meeting with Dr. Connor in mid-January on this. We also discussed the request for NMSU interns to help with YEC projects. Dr. Medina has since provided the names of two possible candidates, and we are following up on their availability for the Spring semester.

THE OBSERVERS POST

OBSERVER REPORT

By Mary Ellen Knapp

Las Cruces, NM City Council, December 18, 2017

Regular Meeting

Mayor and all Councilors were present.

Items of Particular interest were:

APPROVED – Reaffirmed Las Cruces' commitment to create a place to live and work through nondiscrimination in all areas of government and declaring the City a Welcoming Community. Fifteen audience members addressed the Council – 14 favored, 1 opposed. (7 ayes)

TABLED – Adopting a new Subdivision VIII, Sections 2-531 through 2-535 “Parking Authority” to Municipal Code, as Amended. Mike White, owner of The Music Box, addressed the Council regarding the current shortage of available parking in the downtown area. Ordinance was tabled to redefine boundaries. (7 ayes)

OBSERVER REPORT

By David Neal

Deming City Council - December 11, 2017

All five members were present:

The first part of Council’s agenda was various consent items and Minutes approval of various Boards.

No one spoke at the Public Forum segment of the meeting.

The 2018 Municipal Election Resolution was approved

Public hearings were approved to consider employment prohibitions of city employees; i.e. city employees cannot hold two offices with the city. It is observed that Mayor Jasso also works for the Board of Education and that he also ran to be a county commissioner (he lost).

Council went into a closed-door session to consider the purchase or disposal of city-owned property in the Industrial Park. It is noted that the City has hired a person to head economic development but that person never appears at Council meetings.

It is also noted that when the Mayor asks for a vote on any issue he calls for yea votes but does not ask for nay votes. This violates an orderly voting procedure.

It is also noted that at this council meeting all votes were unanimous—no dissenting votes were cast.

OBITUARY *Mary Ann Flynn 1932-2017*

Mary A. Flynn, age 85, of Las Cruces passed from this life on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at La Posada-Mesilla Valley Hospice. She was born January 16, 1932 in Temple, TX to John and Doris Morehead William. Mrs. Flynn was a homemaker and a member of the League of Women Voters. Those left to mourn her passing include a son, Ross P. Flynn of Las Cruces. Her husband, James Lee Flynn, preceded her in death.

At Mrs. Flynn's request cremation has taken place and a Memorial Service was held Wednesday (today), December 20, 2017 at 10 AM in St. James Episcopal Church, 102 St. James Street with Reverend Nick Funk officiating.

League of Women Voters Board Meeting Minutes (Newsletter Version)

December 7, 2017

The board accepted and approved previous minutes and finance report.

For Membership the board chose to give Georgia Eaker a membership scholarship as she has built our Facebook page. Dale Yeo will serve as administrator.

Bonnie Votaw has volunteered to work as a grant writer for LWV-GLC as we will need substantial funds to produce the public Voter Guide in 2018. There is training available and a computer in the library dedicated to grant opportunities.

Erica Graf was appointed as Director of Youth/Student Engagement. She has accepted this position.

Next Board meeting will be January 4th at Branigan and Lunch with a Leader on January 8, 2018. Submitted by Connie Lee, Secretary

KAREN DOUGLAS, continued

- Karen previously served as LWVCNM Vice President/Program Chair May 2015-17. As LWVCNM Vice President, Karen chaired the 10 member LWV Money in Politics (MIP) Study and Consensus committee including representatives from Academia, industry, and government to ensure LWV members informed of recent US Supreme Court decisions impacting existing LWV Campaign Finance position effectiveness. Reviewed MIP committee summaries of applicable documents for general LWV member education prior to formulating Consensus Opinion during November 2015 LWV membership meeting with final Consensus submitted to LWVUS December 2015 for consolidation with other LWVs. Subsequent update of LWVUS Campaign Finance position April 2016 permitted advocacy for 2016 Primary and General elections and supports legislation to reduce corruption. Coordinated May 2016 LWV address by US Senator Udall introducing March 2016 Campaign Finance Reform Legislation. Coordinated LWVCNM Consensus meeting for LWVNM Charter School Study.

KAREN DOUGLAS, continued

- As LWVCNM Vice President and Program Chair, coordinated monthly presentations to LWVCNM membership including interaction with UNM Business and Engineering faculty and UNM Dean of Education Ochoa, US Senator Heinrich, NM State Auditor Keller, US Diplomats, LWVUS representatives, APS Superintendent Reedy, Center for Public Integrity, Foundation for Open Government, Bernalillo County Manager Baca, US Senator Udall, Citizens' Climate Lobby, District Attorney Brandenburg, and United Voters of New Mexico.
- Represented LWVCNM on APD Forward Coalition of community organizations (e.g., ACLU, LWV, Health Care for the Homeless, Common Cause, Council of Churches, Strong Families, Criminal Defense Attorneys) promoting improvement measures stipulated by the 2015 DOJ Consent Order for the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) to reduce instances of excessive use of force. Met with Albuquerque Mayor Berry and Staff, DOJ Monitor Dr. Ginger, APD Chief Eden, and DOJ officials. Observed 2015-17 Community Policing Council meetings including APD Command Representatives and neighborhood representatives. Coordinated 2016 and 2017 APD Forward presentation by ACLU Attorney communicating APD improvement efforts as evaluated by DOJ Monitor. Participated in initial APD Forward Youth Town Hall 2015 to improve relations and communication with APD Officers.
- Served as LWVCNM Leadership Representative to LWVNM Board of Directors.

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

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League of Women Voters of New Mexico

Save the Date

League Day at the Legislature 2018

January 31 and February 1

Legislative Reception, Wednesday, January 31, 5:30-7:30 PM

Garrett's Desert Inn, [311 Old Santa Fe Trail](#)*

Tax Reform Proposals in the 2018 Session

**Richard Anklam, President/ED, New Mexico Tax Research Institute,
Former Assistant Sec./Dir. of Tax Policy for New Mexico Taxation and Revenue**

League Day, Thursday, February 1, 10:15 AM to Noon

Morgan Hall, New Mexico Land Office, 310 Old SF Trail

Messaging for the Ethics Commission State Ballot

& what we want in 2019 enabling legislation

Viki Harrison, Executive Director, Common Cause - New Mexico

League Supported Revenue Generators in the 2018 Session

Bill Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor/Government Relations, NM Voices for Children

*** Garrett's Desert Inn, located down the street from 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](tel:1-800-888-2145) or [505-982-1851](tel:505-982-1851) to reserve a room. You must reserve your room by January 12 with the code "Swing Vote" to get this discounted rate.**