

# The VOTER

League of Women Voters  
of Greater Las Cruces  
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)  
Web Site: [www.lwvglc.org](http://www.lwvglc.org)  
July/August 2015



## *1st Annual LWVGLC Fiesta Showcase of Priorities*

Monday, August 10, 2015  
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Good Samaritan Social Center  
Creative Arts Room,  
3011 Buena Vida Circle

Come to the August meeting prepared to enjoy yourself! It will be an informal evening and a departure from the usual dinner-speaker format. This entertaining meeting will offer members the opportunity to:

- Meet and become better acquainted with fellow members
- Enjoy a "Fiesta" dinner menu
- Become more knowledgeable about the priorities for which we advocate

(and don't forget the door prizes!)

This event is the kick-off meeting to the Fall 2015 programming.

Come and invite your friends. Be sure to **RSVP by August 1, 2015**. You can email Ardyth Norem at [an.lwv.reservations@icloud.com](mailto:an.lwv.reservations@icloud.com) or call Gwen Hanson at 556-9251.



## CALENDAR

**August 1 (Saturday) - Deadline for making reservations for Showcase of Priorities Fiesta.** RSVP Ardyth Norem, Email: [an.lwv.reservations@icloud.com](mailto:an.lwv.reservations@icloud.com), or call Gwen Hanson at 556-9251.

**August 6 (Thursday) - 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Board Meeting** at the home of Gwen Hanson, 1219 Dry Creek Place. Tel: 556-9251 All are welcome!

**August 10 (Monday) - 5:30-7:30 p.m., Dinner with a Leader: 1st Annual Fiesta Showcase of Priorities** Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. **RSVP by August 1 to [an.lwv.reservations@icloud.com](mailto:an.lwv.reservations@icloud.com) or phone Gwen at 575-556-9251.** Please note that this is a departure from our normal luncheon on Mondays. We hope more working people will be able to attend this early evening format for a meeting. Reservations Required: If reservations are not cancelled, you will be charged.

**August 20(Thursday) - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Third Thursday Book Club,** "Dealing with China: An Insider Unmasks the New Economic Superpower" by Henry M. Paulson At the home of Jennifer Coppolo, Tel: 312-0783, Email: [jencoppolo@gmail.com](mailto:jencoppolo@gmail.com)

**The VOTER**

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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](http://www.lwvglc.org)

**President** - Gwen Hanson

**Vice President & Events  
and Speakers**  
Ardyth Norem

**Secretary** - Sadie Valverde

**Treasurer** - Ruth Benjamins

**Director, Membership**  
Yvonne-Magdalena Flores

**Co-Directors, Voter Services**  
Marcia Anderson & Dale Yeo

**Nominating Committee**  
Chair: Ellen Young  
Elected Member: Johnnie Aldrich

**Program for Study & Action**

**Affordable Housing**  
Vicki Simons -522-4813  
Christina Little-373-1882

**Education**  
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

**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

**Web Master**  
Dale Yeo - 405-7580

**Newsletter Editor**  
Jennifer Coppola- 575-312-0783  
[jencoppola@gmail.com](mailto:jencoppola@gmail.com)

## *President's Message*

*Gwendolyn (Gwen) Hanson*



Welcome back from our League's July hiatus. Hopefully, everyone had the opportunity to vacation, visit with friends and family, and collectively, to take a deep breath of rejuvenation.

The next regular monthly meeting will be August 10, 2015, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Good Sam's Creative Arts Room. The program will be a departure from our usual speaker-dinner format. The August meeting will be The "1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fiesta Showcase of Priorities", as described on page 1 of The VOTER. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for members to get better acquainted with one another and with our League priorities. Please feel free to invite guests to attend. There will be door-prizes and a festive dinner menu.

**Building Capacity:** In order for members to access the latest information available on the web about specific issues, please note the first addition to the VOTER of hyperlinks (please refer to "Information Links" on page 12. The purpose is to make available to each member the ability to customize the gathering of new or additional information. In addition, it gives each member the opportunity of sharing with others those websites that offer expertise in specific areas of interest. We hope to increase this resource during the upcoming year.

Finally, it serves to minimize the number of unsolicited emails to members. Please share your websites for the benefit of other members by sending that information to the Editor, Jennifer Coppola.

We have a full slate of activities for our League members' participation:

1. Participate in Voter Services activities as we approach the season of the Las Cruces Municipal Election - e.g., Voters Guide, Voter Registration, Candidate Forums
2. Volunteer to assist in Membership tasks
3. Join a League priority group - e.g., Affordable Housing, Campaign Finance, Education, Election Procedures; Health; Immigration, Metro Court; Water
4. Attend monthly meetings to learn more about current community issues, e.g. Health Care, K-12 Testing, Campaign Finance Reform
5. Become a better-informed citizen through collaborative work between the League and city/county government, and other community organizations.

We look forward to the activities and collaboration with League members to accomplish our goals and achieve our mission. Welcome to a year of challenge and accomplishment!

**Board Meeting Highlights, June 4 2015** - *Sadie Valverde, Secretary*

**Present:** Marcia Anderson, Erika Graf-Webster, Gwen Hanson, Dale Yeo, Sadie Valverde, Ruth Benjamins, Jennifer Coppolo and Yvonne-Magdalena Flores.

**Ongoing Administrative & Operational Activities:**

Review of Agenda – Updates were added under New Business.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ruth Benjamins provided the May 2015 report.

**Membership Report:** Yvonne Magdalena-Flores reported that the 2015 Membership Directory is currently being updated. It should be completed by August for distribution. Thanks to Charlotte McCarthy, Bonnie Burn and Johnnie Aldridge for their contributions in the development of the new Membership Directory.

**We now have 63 paid members for the coming year.**

**Membership & Leadership Development (MLD)** – Gwen Hanson reported that all of our League activities are part of a MLD assessment. Discussion of MLD will be further discussed at the August meeting.

**New Business and Activities:**

**Voter Services Report:** Marcia Anderson reported she has 2,000 copies remaining of 2015-2016 of the Who's Who publication. Copies have been distributed throughout the community, and will continue to be available. It is also posted on the LWVGLC website. Dale Yeo will be moving but offered to help with the website until a replacement can be identified.

Gwen Hanson reported that she has contacted the Sun News about the new contract for 2015-2017 publications. It should be ready within days for distribution to Board Members for their approval.

**Calendar for League Activities for 2015-2016** was developed and reviewed..

**Speakers for luncheon/dinner meetings** was discussed. Judge Brack will be our speaker for the June 9<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting. He will be speaking on immigration.

The August meeting will be a dinner meeting and the Board decided to have the **1<sup>st</sup> League Fiesta Showcase of Priorities**. The meeting will allow members to get better acquainted, while learning more about League priorities. The September and October meetings will be dinner meetings, reverting to luncheon meetings beginning in November. Suggestions for speakers included John Hummer, (health care delivery systems in the Las Cruces area), Dr. Stephen Sanchez, Las Cruces Public Schools, (elementary and secondary education), and Craig Fenske and Vicki Harrison, Common Cause (campaign finance). The December meeting will be the Legislative Breakfast.

**The Voter Editor Report:** Jennifer Coppolo. Everyone is pleased with the great job that Jennifer is doing. She thanked those members who helped edit and proof-read – Bonnie Burn, Charlotte McCarthy, and Marjorie Burr. Streamlining the newsletter was discussed, and Gwen Hanson, Erika Graf-Webster, and Jennifer Coppolo volunteered to work together to make suggestions.

**"Your Membership Makes a Difference"** form was offered by Gwen Hanson for discussion. The form was adapted from a similar form distributed at the State Convention. The form will be offered to the membership at the June dinner

(Continued on Page 4)

**Board Meeting Highlights, May 7** *(Continued from page 3)*

meeting for the purpose of gathering member interest in local priorities. The information can be used for planning future meetings. President, Gwen Hanson reported that she and Ardyth Norem had attended the State League Convention, May 16-17, 2015 in Albuquerque.

**Old Business:**

**Studies and Committee** – reports and discussion tabled from May meeting. Sue Cain was absent; there was not a report given on immigration.

**Action Items** – May 2015 Board Meeting – Issues raised by Erika Graf-Webster

After a lengthy discussion on the Ocotillo Institute Empowerment Congress Workshop and League participation in Fun Camp; the Board decided that although both organizations work on similar principles it is not feasible for the League to get involved in another project at this time. We are adding two new committees this year - immigration and metro court; however, we might consider future collaboration.

**Brainstorming of activities to encourage young voters was discussed.** The purpose is to have three teams – High School, DACC and NMSU. Gwen Hanson and Erika Graf-Webster attended a meeting at the Las Cruces Professional Development Center with Bonnie Votaw and Wendi Miller-Tomlinson. The meeting focused on the High School efforts led by Bonnie Votaw with the help of Wendi Miller-Tomlinson, to develop curriculum lessons dealing with voting issues and also to utilize the Excel high school program to get a student intern to develop new tools, such as smart-phone apps. Another venue is to engage the student governments in finding events where the League could promote their message of the importance of voting and could actually register new voters. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson is the Director of Secondary Education for the Las Cruces Public Schools system. Wendi is in the process of joining the League and very interested in helping with our project. According to Bonnie Votaw, Centennial High School is hosting the NM State Student Council Conference April, 2016. The President of the Centennial High School Student Council will be invited to our August Board Meeting, to be held at the Professional Development Building.

Rosemarie Sanchez, Emma Armendariz, Kelly Burnham and Yvonne-Magdalena Flores are working with the NMSU students. Rosemarie has begun to make contacts at NMSU. After a discussion Erika Graf-Webster moved that the League focus on the high school plan that Bonnie Votaw submitted. Motion was seconded by Marcia Anderson. Motion carried.

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## Let's Grow Our Numbers!

Invite a friend, colleague, or relative to the 1st Annual Fiesta Showcase of Priorities on August 10th.

Membership: \$60 - INDIVIDUAL  
\$30 - 2nd Household  
LWV of Greater Las Cruces  
P.O. Box 8322  
Las Cruces, NM 88006



# Feature Articles

## **KRWG Las Fronteras: A Changing America Public Television Series Spanish and English: Dual Language Program -**

*Bonnie Burn, Reporting*

As a means of keeping the community informed about new programs in the public education system, the League of Women Voters, Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS), and KRWG have been collaborating on an education series. The Dual Language program, an effort to introduce Spanish and English speakers to each other's languages, was the topic of the most recent discussion. Mari Rincon, LCPS Coordinator for Dual Language and Migrant Education, and Kathy Norris, Principal, Fairacres Elementary school, introduced the program. Theresa Saenz-Telles, multi-age bi-lingual teacher, presented information about the actual classroom experience.

The mission of the program is to encourage students to become bilingual and literate in two languages, Spanish and English. Students are immersed in two multi-age classrooms, kinder through second and third through fifth grades. Classes are held at Fairacres and Desert Hills Elementary schools. Students remain in one classroom rather than being pulled out of and shifted from classroom to classroom. Throughout the day, learning occurs both in Spanish and English. The teacher now has a major role as facilitator. Students mentor other students and work cooperatively to get the best results from assignments. This environment demonstrates that each child's culture is worthwhile. The teacher can focus on interests and learning styles of the students who gain leadership skills and receive instruction at the needed skill level. Students focus on the real world. Diversity and mentoring among the multi-age students lead to creative learning.

There are about 40 students in the program at Fairacres. Many of the students are Spanish-speakers only. Desert Hills Elementary has more English speakers. Parents sign-up for the program. Multi-age students are assigned in equal numbers (e.g., six each in kindergarten, first, and second grade, etc.). Students are selected by lottery, and Spanish speakers have priority to fulfill English as a Second Language (ESL) requirements. Before the program was started, parents were surveyed and showed support for it.

Presenters described the program as a breath of fresh air. Working with other teachers creates support among the teachers, and new technology encourages creative activity that often originates from the students themselves. The presenters felt this program was a huge leap in the field of dual language instruction because it occurs in a self-contained classroom and Spanish and English are spoken continuously.

Ms. Saenz-Tellez described a learning experience that occurred in her classroom in collaboration with the Doña Ana Arts Council (DAAC). Working with DAAC, the students from both schools showcased their projects in a public event. The students created a TV Talk Show using a PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate the knowledge they have acquired in the classroom. Using Dr. Seuss' book, "Oh! The Places You'll Go," the students read the book, did a character analysis, acted out parts, recorded it, and made a film. These are two examples of the creative learning taking place in this special dual language program.





# League News



## COMMON CAUSE - Public Campaign Finance

Gwen Hanson, Reporting

In February of 2015, Craig Fenske from Common Cause NM was invited to the Election Procedures Committee meeting to discuss the topic of public funding of election campaigns.

In early July, five members of the Election Procedures Committee: Ardyth Norem, Rosemarie Sanchez, Yvonne Flores, Erika Graf-Webster, and Gwen Hanson met with Craig Fenske and Heather Ferguson. The purpose was a request for statements of support from the League for the proposal by Common Cause to the Las Cruces City Council, July 13, 2015, during a Work Session – for public funding of Las Cruces municipal election campaigns. The League's statements of support would be part of the presentation. Gwen Hanson and Erika Graf-Webster agreed to participate.

Monday, July 13, 2015, Craig Fenske presented the proposal of Common Cause to the Las Cruces City Council for public funding. Statements of support were offered by Erika and Gwen, as well as NMSU Professor of Government, Nancy Baker. The presentation was well-received, and future plans for another work session to further the conversation between Common Cause and the Mayor and City Council was discussed.



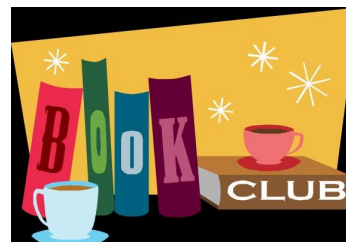
## Have you changed



- Address
- Name
- Telephone number
- Email address
- Cell/Mobile Listing?

Call or Email:

Yvonne-Magdalena Flores  
Membership Director  
521-3980  
yvonnevavoom@aol.com



## Book Titles for Upcoming Third Thursday Book Club Meetings 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**August 20 - Dealing with China: An Insider Unmasks the New Economic Superpower** by Henry M. Paulson  
Jennifer Coppolo's home.  
2201 Wildwind Road  
Tel: 312-0783,  
Email: jencoppolo@gmail.com

**September 17 - Diversity Explosion: How New Racial Demographics are Remaking America** by William H. Frey  
Roberta Gran's home.  
2172 Stone Pine Drive  
Tel: 373-8490,  
Email: robertagran@q.com



# League News



## League of Women Voters of New Mexico

2315 San Pedro NE, (#F-6) , Albuquerque, NM 87110

Tel: 505-884-8441, Web: [www.lwvnm.org](http://www.lwvnm.org)

### LWVNM Special Session Update

June 13, 2015

After weeks of bipartisan negotiations surrounding capital outlay funding, New Mexico legislators reconvened Monday, June 8, in Santa Fe for a 5-hour special session.

Along with reviving the 2015 capital outlay package, which includes increased funding for senior centers and higher education institutions, the legislation passed on Monday also allocated \$300,000 to the Administrative Office of the Courts and \$4 million to the Department of Health. Although these actions were critical in keeping New Mexicans working and providing necessary services to some of our most vulnerable populations, it came with a compromise of tax breaks and incentives.

The Special Session raises several serious procedural questions: Should tax packages be included in a one-day session that permitted very little input from the public? Even more important, where was the transparency and accountability in the negotiations that occurred before lawmakers were convened?

What the Tax Bill included:

- Restored the unreimbursed medical expense deduction, which is slated to expire this year. According to the Governor's Office, about 300,000 New Mexico taxpayers have claimed this deduction. The administration has said that nearly half of those using the deduction earn less than \$25,000 annually.
- Restored the gross receipts tax deduction for trade-support companies that locate in a border zone.
- Clarified two provisions relating to the double taxation and loading fees on gasoline or special fuels.
- Increased the 'Angel Investor Credit' to \$2 million and continues tax credits for technology companies and research and development.

Unfortunately, when legislators were given a chance to support Representative Matthew McQueen's solar credit amendment (same language as the LWVNM 2015 endorsed bill – SB391) to the tax package legislation, it was defeated 33-29. The vote was along party lines even though an overwhelming majority of legislators had passed this renewable energy tax credit extension in the regular session.

LWVNM will continue to keep you informed about upcoming interim hearings, changes or challenges to laws, and other ways you can get involved and make a difference in the policy that shapes the lives of New Mexicans. If you would like to get involved in the League of Women Voters or join our Legislative Action Committee, please visit [www.LWVNM.org](http://www.LWVNM.org).

### **LWV Mission**

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



# League News



## Join the Voter Services Committee!

Marcia Anderson, Reporting

Voter Services will be hosting a Candidate Forum and publishing a Voters Guide for the **November Las Cruces Municipal Election**. In order for these League activities to be successful we need members willing to serve on the League's Voter Services Committee. Being part of this committee involves helping with publication of **Voters Guide** by developing questions, verifying contact information or proof reading. These activities are interesting and most effectively done when a few League members meet and work together. The volunteer jobs for the **Candidate Forum** include question screeners, runners, greeters and helping with logistics. Although this is an "off" year election it is still a crucial one for the City of Las Cruces and voters deserve to know where candidates stand on key issues. To help in either area please contact Marcia Anderson by phone: 575-523-1317 or by email at: [maanders211@yahoo.com](mailto:maanders211@yahoo.com)

Offices up for election are **City Council Districts 1,2,4** currently held by Miguel Silva, Greg Smith and Nathan Small, respectively. The position of **Mayor**, now occupied by Ken Miyagishima will also be on the ballot, as will the one for **Presiding Municipal Judge Division 1**, currently occupied by Melissa Miller-Byrnes. The election calendar is below.

### Election Calendar

September 22	Candidate Filing Day
September 29	Candidate Certification & drawing for positions (5 p.m.)
<b>October 6</b>	<b>Last day to Register to vote</b> in 2015 Municipal Election
October 7-31	Absentee Ballot (paper)
October 14-31	In Person Absentee/Early voting at City Clerk's Office

October 17, 24, 31

Saturday In Person Absentee/Early voting at City Clerk's Office 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

October 30

Last day to mail absentee ballots from Clerk's Office

**November 3**

**ELECTION DAY**

## DRIPPING ON

Win Jacobs, Reporting

In 2013, the NM legislature appropriated funds for the Interstate Stream Commission to develop an update of the State Water Plan of 2004. On June 30, 2015, the consultants hired by the ISC are supposed to present the technical platform and coordinated regional policies and programs to that Commission. Each of the sixteen regions was charged with developing implementation programs for that region, subject to ISC revision and approval, for melding into a new statewide plan.

Here in Region 11, the Lower Rio Grande, i.e. mostly Dona Ana County, six work groups were established: environmental, agricultural, commercial and industrial, technical, quality of life/big picture, and community engagement. The volunteer work groups labored through the spring to bring forth programs and policies and projects to present to the volunteer Steering Committee, which then would present to the ISC.

At press time, questions await answers: how current will be the technical data provided on deadline by the consultants? How faithfully will regional input be honored, given the desire at the state level for homogeneity? What representations will be made to the 2016 30-day session of the NM legislature, in terms of funding and of legislation?

Stay tuned—and check your rain gauges!





# League News



## Women's Suffragist Memorial

Dear League Leader,

I am writing to inform you that the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) has agreed to become a partner with the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association (TPSMA) in creating a memorial that celebrates the fight for women's suffrage and its relevance today. This decision is particularly timely in light of the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 2020.

TPSMA has been working to ensure that the proud history of the successful struggle for women's voting rights will be permanently commemorated at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, located on two acres within the Occoquan Regional Park in northern Virginia. This location was selected because it is in close proximity to the former location of the Occoquan Workhouse, where dozens of suffragists were incarcerated in 1917 for picketing the White House. The inhumane treatment of those brave women became public knowledge and in turn became one of the significant turning points in the fight for the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Of course the history of the fight for women's suffrage is much longer and broader, with many turning points less celebrated but equally significant. Many critical milestones will be commemorated on the 19 informative stations that will be installed throughout the park. Since suffragist leaders, like our founder Carrie Chapman Catt, built no monuments to themselves, this memorial will be one of the very few physical reminders of the importance of their movement.

The LWVUS Board has agreed to become a partner and has appointed Executive Director and Arlington, Virginia League member Nancy Tate to represent the League on the TPSMA Board. In addition, the LWVUS Board voted unanimously to make a \$1,000 contribution to the memorial. That contribution will ensure that the LWVUS name will be included on the Donor Wall at the park. Although the park is being built and maintained by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (now known as NOVA Parks), the funds for the memorial itself must be raised privately. TPSMA's initial goal is \$1 million by November 30, 2015 and they are reaching out to many individuals, groups, and corporate donors.

We encourage all Leagues and individuals to consider making their own donations. Interested Leagues can learn more by visiting the Turning Point website, [www.suffragistmemorial.org](http://www.suffragistmemorial.org). Donations can be made through the website or by mail to TPSMA, 5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039. Gifts of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on the Donor Wall, and three state Leagues (Colorado, Tennessee, and Virginia) have already contributed at that level. TPSMA is requesting that donations be made by October 15, 2015, to enable them to stay on schedule for building the first phase of the memorial.

We believe that this partnership is about more than building a memorial to the suffragists, significant though that is. The goal is to create a place and the momentum to educate and inspire present and future generations to continue the fight for equal rights. The design already calls for significant efforts since 1920 to be highlighted. Our involvement in the memorial can only strengthen the story.

Whether or not you choose to support the memorial, please plan to be part of efforts over the next five years to celebrate both the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage and 100 years of continuous League efforts in Making Democracy Work. We have a wonderful opportunity to showcase not only our proud history but also the many contributions that Leagues across the country are making today – and every day.

In League,

Elisabeth MacNamara  
President



# League News



## Issues And Answers: Our Water Future; Join Us in Studio July 27 at 12:45pm

Forwarded by Gwen Hanson

Join us at KRWG-TV studios on Monday, July 27 at 12:45p.m. for a forum on the future of water in southern New Mexico. The forum will be preceded by a documentary produced by KRWG's Simon Thompson.

You may print a parking pass in the "about us" section online at [www.krwg.org](http://www.krwg.org)

The program will air on KRWG-TV Thursday, July 30 at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, August 1 at 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, August 2 at 11:00 a.m.

Forum guests include:

Phil King has been working as a hydrology and engineering consultant for the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) for 24 years and is the New Mexico State University associate department head of civil engineering at New Mexico State University. Prior to coming to Southern New Mexico, King worked in rural development and irrigation and drainage engineering as a Peace Corps volunteer in Malawi (Africa).

Beth Bardwell, Audubon New Mexico Director of Freshwater Conservation. Bardwell has been working on freshwater and river conservation and policy reform in New Mexico and the Rio Grande basin for close to six years and spearheaded a market-based environmental water right transaction program to benefit habitat on the banks of the Rio Grande. Bardwell has a Master of Science in Biology from New Mexico State University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Oregon School of Law.

Greg Daviet owns and operates Dixie Ranch, a century-old family pecan farm in Las Cruces. Daviet is on the board of directors for the New Mexico Pecan Growers Association and holds a degree in Agricultural Business and Economics from New Mexico State University.

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## A Little Humor to Lighten Your Day..



## LEAGUE OBSERVER REPORTS

*The League's Observer Corps can enable greater coverage and information gathering, provide early warning of upcoming issues of concern, increase League's visibility, and assist in networking with other groups. We appreciate the reports that are submitted by Observers. Following the League practice of publishing nonpartisan, objective reports, the information submitted may be edited for content and brevity.*

### MESILLA VALLEY PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

#### Board of Directors Meeting

#### Housing Authority Office

**June 16, 2015**

Observed by Vicki Simons

Board Members were all present:

Chair: Theresa Olguin-Fisher

Vice Chair: Beth Bardwell

Felix Cordero

Shelley Sanders

Annaliza Gourneau

Meeting Protocol was routine.

#### Management Reports:

Jaclyn Leyva, newly hired Housing Choice Program Manager (she is the administrator of the HUD Section 8 rental vouchers) reported that June 30 will be the one day that people can apply to put their names on the waiting list for receiving a rental voucher. This voucher may be used for rental of units in public housing (owned by MVPHA) or in units owned by private sector landlords approved by MVPHA. There are presently about 500 people on the list who applied last year and Ms. Leyva said they expect 400-500 more this year. The program has enough funding to issue 15-20 vouchers per month. The need is much greater than the funding. The Section 8 program in MVPHA has a current rating of "troubled" by HUD and the Authority is working hard to change this.

#### Executive Director:

Juan Olvera, new Executive Director, responded to a question from the Board about setting up a Residents' Council. Mr. Olvera is making changes to administrative policies and these will be presented to the Board for its approval in the next few months. These will include the procedure for the waiting list and hiring help to set up a Residents' Council.

Board adjourned to go into executive session to discuss the contract with the Bernalillo County Housing Authority that had been hired the aid with Section 8 Program difficulties.



### OBSERVER REPORT

**South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA) July, 2015**

**Susan Schmugge, Reporting**

Like many other groups, the SCSWA Board has a hiatus in July. So here is a handy list of how and where you can find answers to your recycling, solid waste and illegal dumping questions. You can contact the SCSWA at 575-528-3800 or visit [www.SCSWA.net](http://www.SCSWA.net). SCSWA covers most of Dona Ana county including the town of Hatch. It serves Truth or Consequences in Sierra county under contract.

For questions about gas, water, wastewater and solid waste services in Las Cruces call Las Cruces Utilities. LCU provides these services to approximately 100,000 Las Cruces residents. Call 575-528-3500 or go to [www.las-cruces.org](http://www.las-cruces.org).



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Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322  
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Web Site: [www.lwvglc.org](http://www.lwvglc.org)

*Las  
Cruces  
City*

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## **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.

**FIRST CLASS**

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## **Information Links**

**LWV - Greater Las Cruces**

[www.lwvglc.org](http://www.lwvglc.org)

**LWV - GLC Who's Who**

[www.lwvglc.org](http://www.lwvglc.org)

**LWV - New Mexico**

[www.lwvnm.org](http://www.lwvnm.org)

**LWV - United States**

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**City of Las Cruces**

[www.las-cruces.org](http://www.las-cruces.org)

**Las Cruces Public Schools**

[www.lcps.ks12.nm.us](http://www.lcps.ks12.nm.us)

**New Mexico State University**

[www.nmsu.edu](http://www.nmsu.edu)

**Dona Ana Community College**

<http://dacc.nmsu.edu>

**Dona Ana County**

<http://donaanacounty.org>

**State of New Mexico**

[www.newmexico.gov](http://www.newmexico.gov)

**New Mexico Secretary of State**

[www.sos.state.nm.us](http://www.sos.state.nm.us)

**New Mexico Legislature**

[www.nmlegis.gov/lcs](http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs)

**U.S. Senate**

[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

**U.S. House of Representatives**

[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

**U.S. White House**

[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)