

The VOTER

League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
Web Site: www.lwvglc.org
June 2015



Dinner with a Leader

A Border Court Judge Looks at Immigration

The Honorable Robert C. Brack
U.S. District Judge
U.S. Court - District of NM

Tuesday, June 9, 2015
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

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

The Honorable Judge Brack will provide his perspective of 12 years on the federal bench and his sentencing of more than 15,000 defendants sentenced for immigration-related "crimes." He will challenge his audience to see the need for immigration reform in a different light.

The Honorable Judge Brack was appointed to the 9th Judicial District Court, Clovis, Curry County, NM, by Governor Gary Johnson in 1997. He served as Chief Judge in Clovis for a three year period from 1999–2001. Prior to his appointment, Judge Brack had a trial practice in Clovis for nineteen years. In 2003, President George W. Bush nominated Judge Brack to the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico. Following his confirmation by the U.S. Senate, he entered on duty July 23, 2003.

In addition to serving as one of only two resident district judges in Las Cruces-site of one of the busiest criminal calendars in the country-Judge Brack was involved on a daily basis in overseeing the construction of the new federal courthouse. Judge Brack has been married to his wife, Sheila, for thirty-nine years. He has three daughters and four grandchildren.

JULY
LEAGUE ON VACATION
No Lunch with a Leader or Board Meeting!

CALENDAR

June 2 (Tuesday) - Deadline for making reservations for Dinner with a Leader. RSVP Ardyth Norem, Email: an.lwv.reservations@icloud.com, or call Gwen Hanson at 556-9251.

June 4 (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!

June 9 (Tuesday) - 5:30-7:30 p.m., Dinner with a Leader: The Honorable Judge Robert C. Brack, Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. **RSVP by June 2 to 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.

June 18 (Thursday) - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Third Thursday Book Club, "Frank: A Life in Politics from the Great Society to Same-Sex Marriage," by Barney Frank. At the home of Erika Graf-Webster, Tel: 521-0600, Email: egrafweber@q.com

Save the Date

June 14 - Flag Day
June 18-21 - LWVUS Council
(Leesburg, VA)
June 21 - Father's Day

The VOTER

Volume 47, Issue 2 – June 2015
Usually Published Monthly

**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

**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 Coppolo - 575-312-0783
jencoppolo@gmail.com

President's Message

Gwendolyn (Gwen) Hanson



Our new League year is progressing on schedule. We held our Mini-Retreat Board Meeting, May 7 for orientation and program planning. The Board decided that **the League would be on vacation in July —no Board meeting, Lunch/Dinner with the Leader, or VOTER.** This "break" allows for vacations and rejuvenation, as we approach municipal election activities in the fall.

There are a number of changes on the horizon, both in leadership roles and procedures. **Dale Yeo, Voter Services Co-Director**, will be leaving us to begin an exciting new life in California, leaving an enormous hole in our voter services publication and website activities. Dale has been an incredibly valuable member, and will be sorely missed. We wish her well, and thank her for all the time and effort she has contributed to our League. **Bonnie Burn** resigned her tireless and timeless role as newsletter Editor of The VOTER. Thank you, Bonnie, for your years of devotion and skill in providing our membership and community readers with an excellent newsletter. **Jennifer Coppolo**, a new member, has recently agreed to take on that responsibility, beginning with the June edition of the VOTER. We appreciate her volunteering to continue this important communication with our readers.

As to procedural changes, Good Samaritan has instituted a policy of contractual agreement with groups who utilize their facility as a meeting place, including increasing the per person catering cost for lunch or dinner from \$9.00 to \$12.00 effective May 1. The Board did approve this contract. We decided to maintain the \$10.00 charge for the May Lunch with a Leader meeting, as we transition. Beginning June 9, 2015, members will be asked to pay \$12.00 for lunch or dinner meetings thereafter. Our meeting in June represents another change: **JUNE 9 is a TUESDAY, and we will meet at 5:30 P.M. FOR DINNER at Good Samaritan. Our speaker will be Federal District Judge Robert Brack, who will be speaking about the very important issue of immigration.** Offering a dinner meeting option is a sincere outreach to our employed members, who rarely are able to attend luncheon meetings. Depending on the effectiveness of this option, more dinner meetings will be considered.

Our lunch or dinner leader meetings will be organized around our program issues. The 2015-16 priority advocacy issues are affordable housing, education, health, and immigration. As other issues arise on which we have positions, they will be added to our programs. We launched this change in May with Renay Scott, Ph.D., President, Doña Ana Community College, who focused on higher education issues, and we will follow up in June with Judge

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President's Message *(Continued from Page 2)*

Robert C. Brack, who will focus on immigration issues.

Finally, the League of Women Voters has a history of maximizing its effectiveness by collaborating with other non-profit community groups and governmental entities. Our League currently works with the Bureau of Elections and its newly developed Advisory Committee, City of Las Cruces, County of Doña Ana, CAFé, Ocotillo Institute through its Empowerment Congress and Get Out the Vote activities. We have relationships with community media and communication organizations to support our voter education, registration, and voter turnout activities. The League benefits from collaborations like these by increasing our visibility and having more hands to help make democracy work.

All of the above represent building capacity for our League and its members. ***Building Capacity*** means to develop and strengthen the skills, instincts, abilities, processes, and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in the fast-changing world. *(Wikipedia)*

We invite you to share your time, skills, and ideas. Opportunity to build **your** capacity is unlimited. **COME JOIN US.**

Board Meeting Highlights, May 7, 2015 - Sadie Valverde, Secretary**New Board Members Orientation:**

Review of non-partisan policy: information is included in the meeting packet for members to read at their convenience.

Responsibility of each office is also included in the meeting packet for members to read at their convenience.

Luncheon Speakers, Invitation and Coordination: President, Gwen Hanson will invite the speakers, and Ardyth Norem will follow-up with the speakers to obtain information needed for The VOTER and any equipment for presentation the speaker may require.

Lunch reservations will be received by Ardyth Norem, and Ruth Benjamin will collect the money. Ruth needs the list of Members that have made a reservation. Erika will help Ardyth when she is not able to attend meetings.

The Board agreed to meet on the first Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall, or if not available, an alternative location.

Standard Board Operation Procedures:

- ⇒ Board reports are due five (5) days before the board meeting.
- ⇒ The final agenda for the meeting will be sent out two (2) days before the meeting.
- ⇒ Reports for The VOTER are due on the 15th of the month.

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**Membership Directory
New Members**

Scott Krahling
2013 Rubina Ct.
Las Cruces, 88007
Tel: 575-640-6205
Email: sckrahlin@yahoo.com



**Due to increased costs, all
Lunches/Dinners with a Leader
are now \$12.00 per person.**

**TIME TO PAY MEMBERSHIP
DUES**

May 1 - June 30

**\$60 - INDIVIDUAL
\$30 - 2nd Household**

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

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

⇒ Lunch with Leader Meeting Charge: Good Sam's has increased the luncheon rate to \$12. The contract with Good Sam's has been signed and delivered by Gwen Hanson. She also has gone over the dates with Good Sam's. **The 2015-16 lunch rate is \$12.**

A New Members Orientation was held on April 13 at Good Samaritan Conference Room. It was conducted by outgoing Membership Director, Johnnie Aldrich. Seven new members attended. Gwen reported that she was among the attendees and was very pleased with the new format for the meeting.

Voter Services Update: Marcia Anderson reported that the Who's Who distribution is currently underway: 2700 copies have been distributed of the 7300 available copies. The City of Las Cruces Municipal Election is scheduled for November, 2015; however, the fall will be a busy time for voter services activities.

Affordable Housing: Christina Little reported that the city will be updating its Consolidation Plan for Affordable Housing in 2015-2016. The League will be following the process closely, and she will keep the League informed as new information is available.

Election Procedures: Barbara Goedecke reported on recent up-dates to NM election procedures that include on-line voter registration and that voters need to be reminded that they do not have to show proof of who they are when they vote. Help was requested in continuing to follow up on any new bills being introduced by the state legislature. Currently, she follows up on any education, water, and housing bills. She suggested that at least one member from those committees be appointed to help her. Scott Krahling, Chief Deputy Clerk, Doña Ana County, is now a League member and will be very helpful in keeping up with election procedure changes. Barbara found it helpful to coordinate efforts with Café, Sun-News, and KRWG-TV.

Metropolitan Court: Marjorie Burr spoke about preliminary plans for the Metro Court study. A small committee, Marcia Anderson, Ellen Haltom, Kelly Burnham, and Marjorie Burr, has been identified and will begin meeting in May. The plan is to use as many League members as are interested to observe sessions of the Magistrate Court, noting performance measurements of due process and fair trial in court procedures in a survey form that the committee will develop. The compilation of these survey forms will provide data. The question to be answered is: does a Magistrate Court system or a Metropolitan Court system better serve the needs of Doña Ana County?

Immigration Committee: Sue Cain suggested that a League committee be formed to focus on the federal immigration reform currently under consideration. This would allow collaboration with a number of community groups that are following this issue and to have League representation at meetings when members are out of town.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ◆ Directives to the Board from the Annual Meeting participants were reviewed.
- ◆ The Bonnie Burn Education Scholarship policy was discussed and adopted unanimously.

Feature Articles

Armchair Treasure-Hunting: a Beginners' Guide to Grant-Seeking - Kelly Burnham Reporting

On March 19, 2015, the Branigan Library offered a free program, "Guide to Online Grantseeker Resources." Librarian Carmella Lee showed a small audience the basics of how to navigate and use a wide range of resources on the library's newest website, GrantSpace.org. From the comfort of our home-town library, grant-seekers can use a designated computer to discover the "hidden treasure" offered by organizations offering money for grants and scholarships. No password is needed to use this computer, and the service is free.

The GrantSpace site (GrantSpace.org) is organized in five sections: Skills, Classroom, Tools, and Blog. The **Subjects** page is used to find content related to the grant-seeker's cause or interest, such as education, economic development, environment, or health care. The **Skills** and **Classroom** pages detail training events, including online classes for grant-seekers, on such topics as how to find and cultivate funders, how to find government grants, how to develop proposals, and red flags for reviewing proposals. The **Tools** page provides samples of such documents as cover letters, grant inquiries, grant proposals, and budget proposals; such samples are intended for guidance and to show best practices. The **Tools** page contains **Foundation Finder**, which provides contact information and financial snapshots for foundations, and **990 Finder**, which shows who gives and how much. Foundation Finder was an eye-opening "X marks the spot" for all the hidden treasure that is out there for the finding and funding of worthy causes.

In just an hour's time, Ms. Lee made use of this service seem easy. She is a reference librarian at Branigan, so would be a human resource available to budding grant-seekers. She recommended making an appointment to use the designated GrantSeeker computer, although she said that an appointment was not a requirement. Ms. Lee also recommended that grant-seekers bring their own thumb drives to download desired information; while hard copies can be printed, she recommended storage on thumb drives to avoid use of paper.

This Grantseeker workshop made clear that millions of dollars are out there if we learn how to look for them. GrantSpace is a rich place to start.

Sustainability in the City of Las Cruces - Christine Sorg, Reporting

The City of Las Cruces is invested in reducing energy consumption, fossil fuel consumption, and intelligent disposal of solid and liquid waste in order to keep providing these services for the future. Sustainable practices can save money over the long run and give a boost to local economies as well.

In the area of energy, the city:

- Encourages and enables residents and businesses to reduce per capita energy consumption by 20% by 2020.
- Pays \$6 million a year to El Paso Electric (EPE) for electricity. It has a deal with EPE to reduce this amount by \$1 million if all traffic and street lights are replaced with LED lights.

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Sustainability *(Continued from Page 5)*

- So far, the city has replaced the traffic lights with LEDs and has worked with a company that will replace the street lights in about one year.
- The city will replace 20% of fossil-based fuel in the city's transportation fleet with renewable sources by 2020. Currently, 20% of the city's fleet uses biodiesel fuel.
- The City Planning Department also is focusing on sustainability. It is proposing that all new city buildings be solar-powered by 2020.

Other new projects include:

- Use biogas from the waste water treatment plant on Amador Avenue to operate a generator that will supply all of the electricity needed by that plant.
- Consider sale of three properties offered by owners. My Brother's Place is located next to the historic Amador Hotel and would be a good place to erect a Visitor's Bureau. Nut and Bolt building is located next to the NM Third District Courthouse that needs more space. The third property is Tee Time, a no longer active golf driving range on Telshor Blvd..
- Finish the downtown plaza by repaving Water and Church Streets and providing new curbs and sidewalks.

"Partnership is not a posture but a process - a continuous process that grows stronger each year as we devote ourselves to common tasks."

-John F. Kennedy

Congratulations Graduates!



2015

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

June 18 - Frank: A Life in Politics from the Great Society to Same-Sex Marriage

by Barney Frank

Erika Graf-Webster's home.

580 Canyon Point Road

Tel: 521-0600

Email: egrafwebster@q.com

July 16 - In Defense of a Liberal Education

by Fareed Zakaria

Marjorie Burr's home.

695 Stone Canyon Drive

Tel: 522-2528

Email: burrmmb@aol.com

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



LWV State Convention - Gwen Hanson Reporting

The 2015 Convention of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico met May 16-17, 2015, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Albuquerque, NM. Attending members from the Greater Las Cruces League were Gwen Hanson, President, and Ardyth Norem, Vice-President. "Democracy is not a spectator sport" was the theme. The luncheon speaker was Chief Justice Barbara Vigil, who spoke of "Understanding the Judiciary - The Third, Co-Equal, and Least Understood Branch of Government." The banquet speaker was Dr. Martha Burk, author of Your Voice, Your Vote.



Pictured are members of the State Board:
(L-R) Front row: Laura Stokes, Carol Tucker Trelease (Secretary), Diane Goldfarb, Barbara Calef, Judy Williams (Programs), and Tarin Nix; Back Row: Miriam Ries, Dick Mason (Vice-President), Meredith Machen (President), Gwen Hanson, and Akkana Peck.
Not shown: Cheryl Haake (Treasurer) and Linda Moscarella (MLD)

Election Procedures Update - Ardyth Norem Reporting

The Election Procedures Committee meets regularly on the third Tuesday morning of each month at 10:00 AM. Recent focus of the group is to identify and create messaging that can motivate all registered voters to vote. This month each member will propose a design for a billfold-ready instruction of where and how to vote. The proposals will be shared and the group will identify their preferred format and materials.

If you are interested in helping with this effort, this is the league committee focused on that task. Please come and contribute to the energy and commitment required for the success of this committee. Contact co-chairs Ardyth Norem (norem.ardyth.lwv@icloud.com) and Barbara Goedecke (gbarb@zianet.com).



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



League News



League Holds Annual Meeting

Gwen Hanson, Reporting

The 47th Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces got underway on Saturday, April 18, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at Good Samaritan Social Center. The breakfast was delicious, and the camaraderie among members lent a welcoming conversational buzz to the room.

As outlined in the 2015 Annual Meeting Voter, the business of the meeting proceeded as planned. **Nonpartisan** policy was readopted.

Bylaw changes that allow the Board to distribute Annual Meeting information two weeks before the Annual Meeting passed without change.

An **Operating budget** of \$9,095 and an **Education Fund budget** of \$5,120 passed without change.

During this fiscal year the major voter services activity will be the City of Las Cruces Municipal Election.

There was no increase in membership dues; however, the cost of Lunch with the Leader was raised by Good Samaritan to \$12 per person.

Under **Program for Study and Action** several positions were changed: (1) a revised position for Education, resulted from its two mini-studies: STEM and For-Profit Virtual Charter Schools; (2) a review of the current Election Procedures and the completion of the Voting Impediments study resulted in a revised Election Procedures position; and (3) the completion of the Quality of life study resulted in a new position. All three positions were adopted with slight changes by members from the original wording. All other League positions were readopted. These positions appear on the League's web site and in the 2015-16 Membership Directory.

Proposed Update of the Metropolitan Court Position (2007) was adopted. The update will be lead by Marjorie Burr, the original chair of the study, and completed in one year.

Two proposed studies were not recommended by the Board: (1) Study factors including Voter Suppression that Hinder Voter Turnout In Doña Ana County and (2) Study the Effect of Different Levels of Government on the Major Factors that Determine Quality of Life. These two studies could be considered at the Annual Meeting if the membership voted to do so by majority vote, and they could be adopted by a two-thirds vote. During discussion, it was noted that the first study involved state law and such an investigation should probably be done by LWVNM. During discussion of the second study, it was noted that the study is complex and broad enough that it is simply beyond the resources of LWVGLC. Both studies failed.

Election of Slate of Officers: With no nominations from the floor the proposed slate of offices were elected by acclamation.

A League member recognition ceremony was conducted by Erika Graf-Webster. A plaque was presented to Bonnie Burn that commemorated her exceptional service and she announced that the Board of Directors had established a \$1,000 Education Scholarship at NMSU in her name. To members of the 2014-2015 Board (Johnnie Aldrich, Marcia Anderson, Ruth Benjamins, Roberta Gran, Gwen Hanson, Sadie Valverde and Dale Yeo), Erika presented a thank you card and gift boxed wooden pen, engraved with the League's initials. Marjorie Burr, Sue Cain, Yvonne Magdalena Flores and Jane Asche were recognized for their individual contributions of time and effort devoted to League work throughout the year.

Upon election of the new Board, Erika Graf-Webster passed the gavel to Gwen Hanson, newly elected president. Gwen's first act was to present a thank you gift from the Board to Erika--a gavel mounted on a plaque expressing gratitude for her efficient leadership during the past two years.

To start the new League year, President Hanson scheduled an orientation planning meeting for the Board on May 7.



League News



League Establishes Bonnie Burn Education Scholarship



(L-R) Erika Graf-Webster, Outgoing President presents Bonnie Burn with scholarship proclamation

In recognition of her service in pursuit of social justice change in the community, the League established a scholarship in Bonnie's name with the Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation.

Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation, Inc. in conjunction with the League of Women Voters of greater Las cruces has created the Bonnie Burn Scholarship in her honor. It is intended that 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 New Mexico State University.

Tara Russell Scholarship Recipient

The Bonnie Burn Education Scholarship, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces, was awarded to Tara Russell, graduating senior of Las Cruces High School, Class of 2015. The Senior Awards Ceremony was held on May 13, 2015, 6:00 p.m., at the Las Cruces High School gym.

Tara Russell, as the first recipient of this newly established scholarship, was presented the award by Bob Burn, husband of Bonnie Burn, and Gwen Hanson, President, of the League of Women Voters.

Tara achieved a 3.9 grade point average. She developed her excitement for education when in middle school she encountered teachers who had passion for their subjects. Her senior year she enrolled in a pre-teaching course that gave her skills in interacting with students as a teacher. Her focus is teaching at the middle or high school level. She is a member of the National Honor Society, was president and treasurer of Future Farmers of America, was captain of the soccer team and was manager of the wrestling team at Las Cruces High.



(L-R) Gwen Hanson, Tara Russell and Bob Burn

Graduating seniors make application for scholarships through the Foundation's online system, and recipients are selected by a committee of the Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation. This is a once a year process, and the recipient receives the award at the Senior Awards Ceremony held at each high school.

The League and Bonnie Burn thank the members of the League and community friends for their generous contributions that will perpetuate this scholarship.

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 Commissioners Meeting, April 16, 2015 -*Beth Bardwell, Reporting*

Members Present:

Theresa Oguin-Fisher, Chair
Beth Bardwell, Vice-Chair (joining by conference call)
Felix Cordero
Shelly Sanders

The Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority (MVPHA) held its regular board meeting on Thursday April 16, 2015.

1. The Board approved the award of its Fiscal Year 2015 independent audit contract to Accounting & Consulting Group, LLP with an option to renew the contract for Fiscal Year 2016 and 2017. This is the same entity that audited MVPHA for Fiscal Years 2012 through 2014. Regulations restrict MVPHA from awarding the audit contract to the same entity for more than six consecutive years at which time a mandatory two year rotation cycle becomes effective.
2. The Board changed its regularly scheduled monthly Board meeting from the third Thursday of every month at 2:00 p.m. to the third Tuesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. The resolution originally scheduled the new meeting date and time for 8:00 a.m., but Commissioner Cordero moved to amend the time to 9:00 a.m. In compliance with the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, the agenda will be available seventy-two hours prior to the meeting and notice of the meeting will be given 10 days in advance of the meeting date.
3. The Board approved of staff disposition of eight computers and one laptop at the Electronics Recycling Center, Las Cruces Waste Transfer Center. Per state regulations, staff confirmed that the hard-drives were wiped clean.
4. The Board approved of the donation of the Villa Sereno community center, playground area and drainage ponds to the City of Anthony. The Villa Sereno is a 25-unit public housing development constructed in 1992. With approval of HUD, the public housing units were converted from rentals to homeownership of which 21 units have been sold and one is under contract for sale.

The remainder of the regular monthly meeting was devoted to MVPHA staff updates and reports. Highlights below:

Financial Statements: Public housing reserve funds for modernization total a little less than \$1 million dollars of which about \$100,000 has been expended to date on landscaping projects.

Office Management: MVPHA is hiring a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Manager and Rental Assistance Specialist for the Section 8 program. While interviews will begin this month for both positions, the deadline for HCV Manager applications was extended to allow for more applicants to apply.

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LEAGUE OBSERVER REPORTS *(continued from page 10)***MVPHA Board of Commissioners Meeting** *(Continued from Page 10)*

Public Housing Maintenance: Approximately \$250,000 of 2013 (Capital Fund Program (CFP) and Reserve funds will be allocated to kitchen remodeling at 26 units, rehabilitation of 23 bathroom units; and installation of solar panels at PHA units to provide direct utility savings to tenants.

Executive Director Board Report:

Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigation of Housing Choice Voucher/Section winds down. MVPHA continues to cooperate with Office of Inspector General on assessment of deficiencies in the Housing Choice Voucher Program. The survey to date indicates that MVPHA generally followed HUD requirements for Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing with minor deficiencies in assistance payments; missing documentation in files; and noted that MVPHA has longstanding difficulty maintaining knowledgeable staff. MVPHA to respond in writing on how to address these deficiencies and will await final determination whether OIG will conduct a formal audit.

West Wind Terrace Low Income Tax Credit Development application denied. MVPHA submitted an application to rehab the Pecos Apartments and develop a low income tax credit development called West Wind Terrace Apartments located one block off of Solano. Total development cost is about \$8 million of which about \$7 million is tax credits leaving a financing gap of about \$1 million. The maximum allocation of points was limited by the financing gap. A total of 16 applications were submitted. Pecos Apartments ranked 12. [Update Mortgage Finance Authority announced official results on April 17 and West Wind Terrace Apartments did not score high enough to qualify for the low income tax credits.]



**South Central Solid Waste Authority Board Meeting, May 21, 2015, 9:00 a.m.,
Transfer Station Board Room**

- Johnnie Aldrich Reporting

Our South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA) Board meeting began, as usual, promptly at 9:00 a.m., with a quorum present.

Representatives from Doña Ana County Commission and the Las Cruces City Council were present to hear the monthly report of Director Patrick Peck and discuss future projects.

Last month, 490 of the 6,600 trucks owned by the Authority collected over 13,000 tons of solid waste, including 690 tons of recyclables. These figures represent a huge increase from those of just two years ago, which made Director Peck question the recently expressed contention of local economists that the city and county are in a slow growth mode. His outlook for the local economy is much more positive since recycling activity is a sign of heightened economic growth. For the past month, Peck's focus has been on preparation for the renewal of the operating permit issued by the New Mexico Environment Department for the Corralitos Landfill. The five-volume document, which has been in preparation for over a year, will be presented at a hearing with state representatives on May 25, 2015. *(Continued on Page 12)*



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Web Site: www.lwvglc.org

*Las
Cruces
City*

FIRST CLASS

**June 2015
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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.

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**South Central Solid Waste Authority
Board Meeting** *(Continued from Page 11)*

Director Peck's report also included news about the very strong possibility of export trade with Mexico. The tire shredder purchased last year to reduce the thousands of tons of discarded tires is being extensively used. So what happens to the resulting piles of shred? A crumb rubber company in Juarez, which processes it for use in road construction and industrial products, has expressed interest in obtaining the shred. Sales/transport negotiations have not yet begun, so more news about this project will be for a future report.

In another major move that will affect the local economy, the Board passed a Resolution awarding a contract to Warren Construction, Inc. of Las Cruces for enlargement of the current office space at the Transfer Station on Amador. The enlarged space will allow the supervisor of the actual dumping facility to work in that building rather than from an office off-site. It will also provide a meeting space large enough that all of the staff can work in the same building rather than in mobile offices on the transfer station site. Estimated total cost of the project will be almost \$570,000.

For answers to specific questions about any aspect of solid waste collection, readers can call 575-528-3800 or access the newly designed website, www.SCSWA.net.