

# The VOTER

League of Women Voters  
of Greater Las Cruces  
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)  
Web Site: [www.lwvglc.org](http://www.lwvglc.org)  
March 2016



## *Lunch with a Leader*

### **The Changing Role of Newspapers**

Rynni Henderson, Publisher of the Las Cruces and Silver City Sun News, and the Deming Headlight

Monday March 14, 2016  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Good Samaritan Social Center  
Creative Arts Room  
3011 Buena Vida Circle

Ms. Henderson will discuss how newspapers are reinventing themselves in the digital world, as well as the vision of media in a community this size and the balance between serving a diverse community and the business health of the paper. She will also address the challenges of serving the community and being the "voice."

**Come and invite your friends. Be sure to RSVP by March 7, 2016. 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***

**March—May 2016**

**March 10** – LWVGLC March Board Meeting, 2:00 pm, Branigan Library Board Room, 2nd Level

**March 14** – Lunch with a Leader, Rynni Henderson, Publisher, Las Cruces Sun-News, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Good Sam's

**March 15** – Dona Ana County Election Advisory Council, 4:00 pm, DAC Bldg.

**March 17** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Book Club, Heretic: Why Islam Needs a Reformation Now by Ayaan Hirsi Ali, 2:00 pm, Home of Erika Graf-Webster

**March 23** - NMSU Library "Sunshine Week" Event – "Outside Influence on Local Elections", 5:00 pm, Contact: Cassie McClure

**April 2** – LWNM Board Meeting, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, Higher Education Center, Santa Fe

**April 7** – LWVGLC April Board Meeting, 2:00 pm, Branigan Library Board Room, 2nd Level

**April 9** – AAUW Program, Panel Discussion: Four Women's Groups (AAUW, LWVGLC, Soroptomists, and Progress Club), 10:15 am, Place TBD

**April 16** – LWVGLC Annual Meeting, 9:00 am -1:00 pm, Picacho Country Club

**April 21** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Book Club, The Age of Sustainable Development by Jeffrey Sachs, 2:00 pm, Home of Ardyth Norem

**May 5** - LWVGLV Board Meeting, 2:00 pm, Branigan Library Board Room, 2nd Level

**May 9** – LWVGLC Dinner with a Leader, Frank Lopez, NGAGE, 5:30 – 7:00 pm, Good Sam's

**The VOTER**

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

P.O. Box 8322  
Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322  
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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

**The VOTER Editor**  
Jennifer Coppolo - 312-0783  
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**Web Master**  
Dale Yeo - 405-7580

**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  
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

**February 2016 Board Meeting**

*Gwen Hanson, Reporting*

**LWVGLC Business - Ongoing Administrative and Operational Activities:**

Review of Agenda:  
No additions.  
Discussion of October minutes and Director's report.

**Voter Services:**

Marcia Anderson and Dale Yeo both reported nothing new at this time.

**Studies and Committee:**

- a. Education Committee: The proposed changes will be presented to the general membership by Bonnie Votaw at the planning meeting on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- b. Immigration Committee: - Yvonne Flores reported that the immigration issues with the League are a national position, therefore it has to be brought up before the national convention.
- c. Election Procedure Committee: Ardyth Norem reported that they had printed 12,000 voter's card in Spanish to be distributed. Barbara Goedecke and Ardyth Norem visited three Motor Vehicle Dept. to check to see if the voter's registration poster was on display. They were told that the employees were asking everyone that goes to renew their driver's license if they were registered to vote. The Who's Who brochure has been distributed to the City Hall and other places that it can be displayed. Ardyth mentioned that she talked to Fred Martino in regards to hosting the candidate's forum at KRWG. Ardyth will stay in touch with Mr. Martino. A replacement location may be necessary if City Hall is not available.

D. Metro Court (Marjorie Burr) not present. Gwen Hanson reported that Marjorie Burr reported that a study is not needed but will continue to visit the courts.

**President's Report re: LWVUS Unit Meeting (3):** The response was favorable. The Members that attended agreed that unit meeting are useful to understand the issues that the League have; especially regarding Money in Politics.

**MDL Call** – Feb 1<sup>st</sup> unable to make the call.

(Continued on page 3)

**Board Meeting Minutes** *(Continued from page 2)*

NM Legislative Session, Reception & League Day: Gwen Hanson and Yvonne Flores attended the Legislative Session on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Agenda for Planning Meeting: Planning meeting is going to be on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, starting at 10:30 AM until 1:00 PM.

Time of Remembrance & Celebration of Life - Bonnie Burn and Marnie Leverett:  
The Time of Remembrance & Celebration of Life for Bonnie and Marnie will be held at the meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 starting at 10:30 a.m. Both Mr. Burn and Mr. Leverett were invited to attend. Mr. Burn will not be able to attend however, Mr. Leverett will attend.

**New Business and Activities:**

Activation of Budget Committee, and Bylaws committee: Ruth Benjamins, Erika Graf-Webster and Gwen Hanson will work on the budget to present to the general membership. Yvonne Flores and another member to be asked will review the bylaws.

March Lunch with a Leader Speaker: Rynni Henderson has agreed to be our speaker at our March luncheon.

May Dinner with a Leader: It was suggested to invite Frank Lopez to be our speaker for our May dinner. Motion by Gwen Hanson, seconded by Sadie Valverde that we invite Frank Lopez to be our speaker for our May meeting, Motion carried. It was discussed to recess for the month of June, 2016.

LWVNM Council, May 21, 2016, Los Alamos – Speaker Yvonne Flores: Yvonne Flores has been invited to speak at the LWVNM meeting.

LWVUS Convention, June 16-19, 2016, Washington, DC: Yvonne Flores will be attending the convention as the LWVGLC delegate. Ardyth Norem may also be attending the convention.

Intellectual Property – LWVGLC: The Board had a discussion on what is considered property of the LWVGLC. After a discussion it was agreed that any printed material that has our Logo, including the new voter information brochure, voter information cards, new PowerPoint presentation, Voters Guide and Who's Who will be considered property of our group. Scott Krahling, League member, wanted to borrow the PowerPoint presentation. After a discussion and a motion by Ardyth Norem, seconded by Yvonne Flores, we agreed to lend the PowerPoint presentation to Scott. Motion carried.

Record Email Votes in Minutes:

Change of speaker for March (Jim Peach to Rynni Henderson): The Board voted by e-mail it was OK to make the change.

Change of date for the February Board Meeting (Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> to Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>). The Board voted by e-mail it was OK to change the meeting date from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Having no further business meeting was adjourned.



# League News



## **Program Planning for Study and Action (2016-2017)**

In anticipation of the 2016 Annual Meeting, twenty-five members participated in a program planning meeting that will recommend studies or action for the upcoming League year (2016-2017) at local and national levels.

### **Reports from each of our active local studies were made:**

- Affordable Housing (Christina Little & Jane Carter)
- Education (Bonnie Votaw)
- Election Procedures (Ardyth Norem)
- Health Care (Gwen Hanson)
- Immigration (Yvonne Flores)
- Metropolitan Court (Kelly Burnham)
- Quality of Life (Dale Yeo)
- Water (Win Jacobs)

Annual Reports of local studies will be published in the April VOTER (Annual Meeting).

### **Recommendations for Review/Revision of Existing LWVGLC Positions:**

Education: Bonnie Votaw suggested an update of the GLC Position because of concerns about "increased politicization of education subsequent to changes in the State Constitution in 2003.

### **Recommendation for New Activities:**

Youth Engagement Committee – Erika Graf-Webster described the goal of this committee is to focus on voter registration, involvement and voter education with special emphasis on the non-voters in the 18-34 age bracket. A printed copy of the newly developed PowerPoint presentation on the importance of the vote that can be used in meetings with youth was shared.

Money in Politics Committee – Erika Graf-Webster submitted a proposal for a committee dedicated to three major areas: (1) continue educating ourselves and discussing "money in politics" issues ; (2) support and promote public financing locally and statewide; and, (3) act as the focal point for advocacy when LWVUS develops a newly revised "money in politics" position.

**The League of Women Voters of New Mexico will hold its biennial Council meeting, May 21, 2016, Los Alamos, NM.**

**The National League of Women Voters will hold its biennial Convention, June 16-19, 2016, Washington, D.C.**

*(Continued on page 5)*



# League News



## Program Planning for Study and Action, *(Continued from page 4)*

### Recommendations for LWVUS:

**LWVCO (Colorado)** – Propose concurrence with Behavioral Health Position. Approved by email vote.

**LWVMN (Minnesota)** – Proposal to amend LWVUS Bylaws Article III (membership) to remove citizenship and age restrictions on the voting membership in all Leagues, i.e., non-citizens and those younger than 18 would be voting members of the League of Women Voters. Approved.

**LWVGLC** – Proposal to change the language of the existing Immigration Position discussion.

According to guidance from national, there is virtually no chance of success with this proposal

this convention year. No proposal will be made this year.



## VOTER REGISTRATION

*Marcia Anderson, Reporting*

Voter Service activity has been quiet for the past month. Our "crunch" periods are during the months leading up to an election and just before Registration deadlines. Therefore, this is a good time for those members who are Voter Registrars to check and make sure their Registration Agent's status is current. The expiration date is on the bottom left hand side of the yellow VOTER REGISTRATION AGENT IDENTIFICATION FORM. Please email or call Marcia Anderson with your name and the expiration date so that a list can be compiled for our Voter Service records ([maanders211@yahoo.com](mailto:maanders211@yahoo.com), phone: [575-523-1317](tel:575-523-1317)). Voter registration will continue to be an important part of League's mission, although with online registration now possible in New Mexico, our efforts may be concentrated on encouraging and advertising that method.



# League News



WE  OUR NEW MEMBERS!

## **President Gwen Hanson Hosts New Member Orientation**

*Yvonne-Magdalena Flores, Reporting*

A new member orientation was held at the home of President Gwen Hanson on Saturday, February 21, 2016. Those who attended were Elisabeth L. Miller, Lizz Taylor, Martha Potter, Cassie McClure, Mary Ann Flynn, Scott Krahling, Sharon Shoemaker, Helen Zagona, Olga Pedroza, Judy LaPointe, and Kim Sorensen.

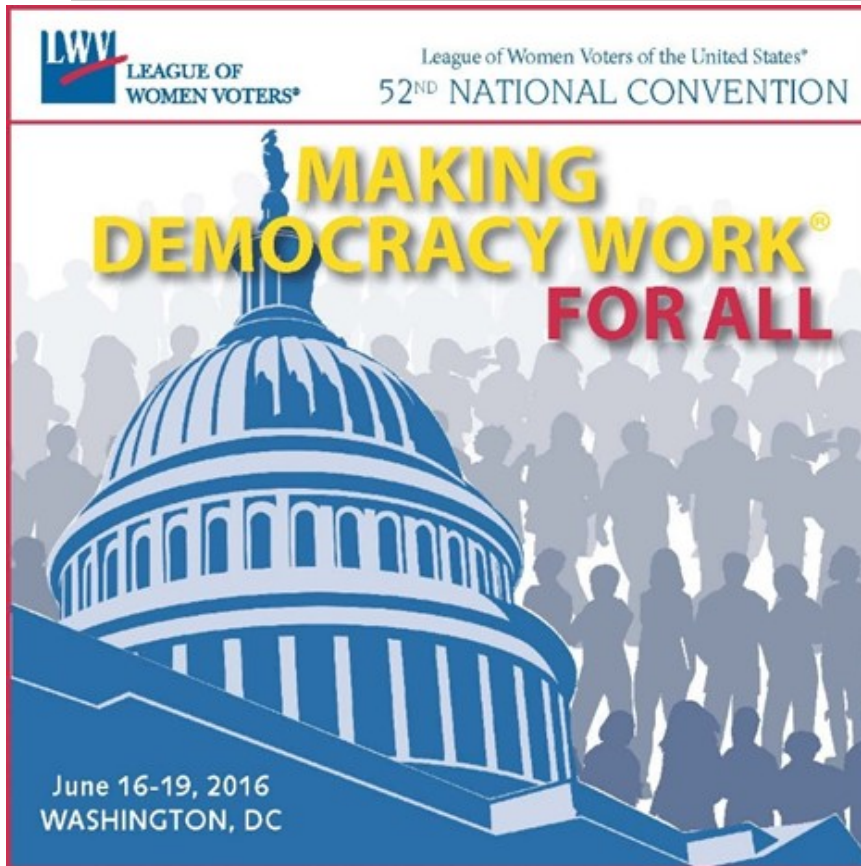
Past Presidents were invited and those who were able to join us were Christina Little who served as President of the League in Albuquerque and Interim President of the LWV New Mexico, Win Jacobs, Marjorie Burr who served two terms of LWVGLC and served as President of the LWV New Mexico, and Immediate Past President Erika Graf-Webster.

The afternoon orientation began with introductions followed by film clips from "One Woman, One Vote" a PBS documentary which chronicles the women's suffrage movement from 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, spearheaded by Elizabeth Cady Stanton by writing letters and articles while rearing six children and running a home. She was then joined by Susan B. Anthony who had the ability to travel and do the public speaking. The suffrage movement in the U.S. spanned 72 years, culminating in the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment in 1920 and passing by one vote.

The documentary segued into the presentation of "History and Overview" of the League of Women Voters a PowerPoint designed by Erika Graf-Webster, based in part on information the late Bonnie Burn had compiled for new members. The history of the LWVUS begins in 1920 when women met to learn the logistics of voting followed by seeing the need to educate its membership and voters.

Members were also provided with organizational information as to the local, state, and national structure. The League is political, yet non-partisan; it is a 501(c)(3)-voter services and it is a 501(c)(4)-lobbying; and a recognized non-governmental organization (NGO) by the United Nations and an observer of the UN.





Join us in Washington, DC, June 16-19 at the League's National Convention to experience the collective power of our mission, messages, and actions to build a more perfect democracy.

Ready to take action?  
Visit the [Convention 2016 information page](#) NOW for details and to:

Register for Lobby Day and Convention  
Reserve Hotel Rooms  
Access resources for Convention "Business" Items  
Sign up for March 10th Convention Webinar

**Members of LWVGLC and LWV El Paso met to discuss immigration advocacy issues, Friday, February 19, 2016.**

(Shown) LWVGLC Immigration Committee Co-Chairs: Yvonne Flores & Sue Cain, and Committee Members: Gwen Hanson (President), and Jane Carter.  
Attending but not shown in the picture were Committee Members: Aletta Wilson, Judy LaPointe, Martha Duran, and Olga Pedroza.

LWV El Paso Members - Janet Monteros (President), Carol Wallace (Immigration Committee, Chair), and Barbara Montoya (Vice-President).





# League News



## Bonnie Burn Scholarship

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces Education Scholarship in Honor of Bonnie Burn, administered by the Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation, Inc., was adopted February 9, 2015. Many generous contributions were made by members, friends, and family to this scholarship fund last year. In order to sustain this scholarship additional contributions are needed. March has been designated as the month each year to bring attention to this fundraising effort.

Criterion for this scholarship were established by our League, and include the following:

- ◆ 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 NMSU in the College of Education
- ◆ During the Fall of each year

All donations to the **LWVGLC Education Scholarship in Honor of Bonnie Burn** are to be made directly to the Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation, Inc. with a designation in the memo line of your check. This designation **must name the Bonnie Burn Scholarship** in order to be credited to that scholarship fund; otherwise the donation will be credited to the general fund of the Foundation.

Example:

I.M. Adonor  
10 Scholarship Way  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

6205

Date: March 15, 2016

PAY TO: Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation, Inc.

\$

THE ORDER OF

DOLLARS



MEMO: LWVGLC Education Scholarship in Honor of Bonnie Burn

I. M. Adonor

:0000000000: 0000:0000000000:

Betsy A. Geery, Executive Director  
Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation  
P.O. Box 16214  
Las Cruces, NM 88004

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution to this worthwhile scholarship fund.



## LEAGUE OBSERVER REPORT

*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.*



### South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA)

*Johnnie Aldrich, Susan Schmugge, Reporting*

During the last few months the South Central Solid Waste Authority has been holding regular meetings. Wayne Hancock and Olga Pedroza have been selected as the new Chair and vice-Chair for 2016.

**The tonnage going into** the Amador Transfer Station has remained high this winter due to roof repairs after a fall hail storm and debris from the construction of the downtown plaza going into the landfill.

**Glass recycling** has remained low (25 tons/month vs 250,000 tons/month in El Paso) and tends to be cyclical (high after the holidays, lower at other times). The crushed glass that is available free to all residents also runs in cycles with highest demands in the spring for landscaping projects.

And, in another example of joint cooperative efforts, SCSWA has just signed an eight-year contract to collect solid waste from T or C and haul it to our facilities. The landfill at T or C lost its permit so it's cheaper for them to send their waste to us for processing.

The **Chaparral Transfer Station** has begun construction with expected opening in fall of



### Magistrate Court, February 23, 2016

*Kelly Burnham, Reporting*

On February 23, 2016, members of the Metropolitan Court inquiry team attended a morning session of Magistrate Court, judge Norman Osborne, Esq., presiding. On the docket was an aggravated DWI jury trial. Overall, the committee was reassured by its observations that this session of one of our courts met our desired parameters of access to justice, equality, fairness, integrity, and public trust and confidence.

The assistant district attorney presented only one witness, a state police officer, who testified as to the stop of the defendant for expired registration and the defendant's deficient performance on standardized field sobriety tests. The prosecution also showed a videotape of the defendant's encounter with the officer. The tests, heel-to-toe walk and turn, and one-foot balance, all appeared to cause the defendant pain, which he attributed to sciatica. Once the officer decided the defendant's performance on the field sobriety tests merited it, he handcuffed the defendant, arrested him, and asked the defendant to submit to a breathalyzer test. The defendant refused to take that test or a blood test, even after the officer explained the consequences of his refusal under the Implied Consent Act.

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**Election Procedures Findings on Review of Las Cruces MVD**  
**January 29, 2016**

*Three sites were visited by Barbara Goedecke and Ardyth Norem on this date.*

**Motor Vehicle Department****505 S. Main #357**

Phone: 524 6215

This site has computer based voter registration. When individuals come in for a driver's license (either new or renewal) a prompt comes up on the clerk's computer screen to indicate if the applicant wishes to register to vote. If yes, the voter registration application is completed electronically and this action is forwarded to the Bureau of Elections. Subsequently the Bureau of Elections mails out the individual's Registered Voter card.

**Motor Vehicle Department****3291 Del Ray Boulevard, #10**

Phone: 647 2044

This site has electronically based voter registration. The process for voter registration is similar to the description for the 505 S. Main facility.

**MVD Express****3961 E. Lohman**

Phone: 373 1367

A prompt on the computer screen comes up every time someone comes in to renew or to make a first-time application for a driver's license. If the individual wishes to register, they are given a paper application form. He/she can then bring it to the Bureau of Elections him/her self, or the MVD Express will mail it for them. The MVD reports that they mail out registration forms every day. There is no electronic registration available at this site.

**Enjoy Your March Celebrations!**

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**Magistrate Court** (Continued from page 9)

The defendant was represented by a state public defender. The only witness for the defense was the defendant. He testified that he was not impaired, though he had drunk two beers several hours earlier. His attorney pointed out that his client's driving had not been what had led to the stop, that his client was cogent and cooperative, and that his inability to perform the field sobriety tests stemmed from his client's sciatica. The defendant claimed that he refused the Breathalyzer test because he thought it would do no good since he had already been arrested.

After closing arguments and instruction on the law read by Judge Osborne, the jury retired to deliberate. They worked through the noon hour and on into the afternoon. They found the defendant not guilty of aggravated DWI but guilty of DWI. In simple terms, the jury may have believed that the defendant's refusal to take the Breathalyzer was not willful, as required under the aggravated DWI statute, but based on the mistaken belief that it would not have made any difference since he had already been arrested and handcuffed. They did believe he had been driving under the influence, however, and thus convicted him on the lesser charge of simple DWI. The closeness of the case was reflected in the length of time of their deliberations, nearly as long as the trial itself.

Committee members were impressed with the conduct of the proceedings. The docket at the reception area of the courthouse easily gave us notice of the various proceedings going on that day. Court security personnel were available and helpful. The courtroom was spacious and comfortable. Microphones were in use throughout, making the proceedings clear to the public and participants. Judge Osborne exhibited a friendly yet no-nonsense demeanor, and he was prepared and polite. Prior to trial, he had properly ruled on a legal issue involving the inadmissibility of the results of a certain field test, the horizontal gaze nystagmus test, and when the issue arose at trial, he dealt with it smoothly and decisively so that the jury knew nothing or little about the excluded evidence of that test. One of the jurors was Spanish-speaking, and two Spanish interpreters were present throughout the trial to ensure his understanding of the proceedings.

The result of this and other observations will be useful to the committee to see if proceedings in other courts in this facility and elsewhere, such as municipal and outlying magistrate courts, likewise meet the parameters of the Las Cruces League's adopted position statement. With the seeming inevitable coming of Metropolitan Court to our area, our committee's comparisons and contrasts of court practices can offer preparedness and continuation/creation of best practices for the transition. We welcome additional observers and "have format, will train" any who would like to join our endeavor.



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*Las  
Cruces  
City*

**FIRST CLASS**

**March 2016**  
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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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**VOTER REGISTRATION  
TRAINING**

Saturday, March 26, 2016  
10:00 a.m. - Noon  
Dona Ana Government Center  
845 N. Motel Blvd

**Would you like to increase voting in Dona  
Ana County?**

**Be trained as a Voter Registration Agent to  
register eligible voters in Dona Ana County.**

**WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY  
VOTING!**

**Open to the Public  
ALL are welcome!**

**For more information contact us at:**

**Bureau of Elections**

**Rose Ann Vasquez (575) 647-7248 Ext. 5968**  
**E-mail: [rosev@donaanacounty.org](mailto:rosev@donaanacounty.org)**  
**DACElections.com**