

**LWV****the VOTER*****League of Women Voters  
of Greater Las Cruces******May 2017*****May 8, 2017 DINNER WITH A LEADER****KEN MIYAGISHIMA, 2015-2019 Mayor,  
City of Las Cruces**

Kenneth Daniel Gallegos Miyagishima was born in Biloxi, Mississippi in 1963. He is of both Japanese and Mexican descent. He has lived in Las Cruces since 1971. He attended public schools and in 1985 graduated from New Mexico State University with degrees in finance and real estate. In 1984 – while still attending NMSU – Ken began his insurance and financial services business, which he still owns today.

**Las Cruces - A City with Great Possibilities**

When city leaders meet to talk about the future of our City, what stands out is the great potential the City has. While the State's economy is still struggling there are many strengths that the City can build on to

ensure a bright future for our residents. The Mayor will talk about the top opportunities and priorities and some of steps we are taking to make them a reality.

**MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KIM  
SORENSEN****May 2017**

Hi LWVGLC Members! I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as president for the next two years. I know it's going to be a rewarding challenge. It will be rewarding because I will get to get to know and work with all of you in promoting democracy and working to improve the quality of life for New Mexicans. It will be challenging because these are challenging times and there is so much to do. But I am confident that by collaborating with one another and focusing on our mission we will continue to work together to make a difference.

My Best to All of You,

Kim Sorensen  
President LWVGLC

***May is the month to pay  
your LWVGLC dues!!***

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS GREATER LAS CRUCES BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018

President	Kim Sorensen
Vice President	Sharon Shoemaker
Secretary	Connie Lee
Treasurer	Steve Litts
Voter Services	Vicki Simons and Dale Yeo
Membership Director	Sue Lashley
Nominating Committee	Jane Asche

### ***DIRECTIONS TO THE BOARD FROM THE MEMBERSHIP***

LWVGLC Annual Meeting on April 15, 2017 ended with a lengthy list of *Directions to the Board of Directors*. In this routine component of the Annual Meeting items of importance to members are identified and placed on the table as the work of the upcoming year. The Board of Directors is charged with developing and implementing each item. This year twelve (12) DIRECTIONS TO THE BOARD were itemized.

The Members gave the following directions to the Board of Directors:

1. Develop a transition plan to advertise broadly that the Who's Who Directory of Elected Officials and possibly the Voter Guide will be available on the LWVGLC website to get people over a two year period starting to look for these publication in electronic form as opposed to print form. For the meantime continue to print more limited numbers of the Who's Who Directory with it also posted on the League website and consider eventually taking the Voter Guide online instead of printing it in the SunNews.
2. Revisit the fee for student memberships in the bylaws and consider a slightly lower fee, possibly by amending the bylaw. Make the fee posted on the website match the fee stated in the bylaws since bylaws govern.
3. Ask the Vice Chair for Programs to coordinate the review of all current position statements during the 2017-18 program year and pay special attention to the County Government Position Statement, which has not been updated since 1997.
4. Develop a policy and/or protocol for handling requests from outside groups requesting the League to sign letters of support for a variety of causes or purposes.
5. Consider the practice of the Board appointing a volunteer Public Relations Director.
6. Strongly consider reinstituting the Off-Board position of Observer Corps Coordinator for LWVGLC for at least the City Council, County Commission, and Board of Education. The coordinator would organize member volunteers to attend meetings in whatever rotation schedule they decide among themselves. Each observer should write up a brief report for the VOTER.
7. Send the revised Education Position Statement to the State League. Revised State education policy language is in the current La Palabra. The revision parallels LWVGLC content.

8. Begin planning during this program year for a 50th anniversary celebration of our local chapter of the League for the year 2018 with a major fundraiser as a part of the plans.
9. Revisit the idea of co-mingling operating and education funds. (William Little submitted this in writing, as he is concerned about his understanding of Steve Litts suggestion as he heard it.)
10. Make sure that next year's budget has a line item for state convention registration fees before the state convention occurs.
11. Consider scheduling at least four monthly meetings as luncheons rather than dinners. Some of us don't drive at night.
12. Consider the possibility of having more of the meetings become sessions for dialog among our membership rather than the usual speaker format.

## **VOTE Tuesday, May 2, 7am - 7pm**

### **Doña Ana Soil & Water Conservation District Election**

Zone 3 (including Talavera, Las Alturas, and Chaparral)

Zone 4 (representing all voters within the Las Cruces City limits)

#### **VOTING LOCATIONS** (Open to all eligible voters in Zones 3 & 4):

Doña Ana County Government Center 845 N Motel Blvd, Las Cruces

Good Samaritan Village 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces

Las Cruces Sage Cafe Community Center 6121 Reynolds Dr, Las Cruces

Vado Community Center 180 La Fe Ave, Mesquite

Anthony Municipal Complex 820 Hwy 478, Anthony

Betty McKnight Center 190 S County Line, Chaparral

**This election will be decided by a handful of voters. Please tell your friends!**

## ***“CHAMPIONS FOR EDUCATION” AWARD TO YOUTH ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE***



*Receiving the Award are members of the Youth Engagement Committee and members of the Mayfield High School ENLACE program. Pictured left to right are: Gwen Hanson, Lizz Taylor, Lucinda Moreno, Erika Graf-Webster (holding trophy), Madilynn Valentine, Martin Macias, Yeseiña Ramirez, David Morales, ENLACE teacher, Jane Asche and Michael Milam.*

The League’s Youth Engagement Committee was presented with the **Education Champion for Collaboration award** at the Ngage awards ceremony on April 20, 2017. The award citation reads: “To the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces Youth Engagement Committee for your creative collaboration with the ENLACE students at Mayfield High School, their teacher David Morales, and the ENLACE Curriculum Chair Dr. Christopher Adams of NMSU to carry out a research action study on how to instill the value of civic and community engagement in young people.”

This award is the culmination of the committee’s work since last April. The committee had reached out to the ENGaging LATino Communities for Education (ENLACE) program with a proposal to collaboratively work on developing materials that can be used to further civic and community engagement among high school and middle school students. The committee established a strong relationship with the Mayfield ENLACE students, under the leadership of teacher David Morales. The ENLACE students selected “Voter Participation among 18-29 year-old Millennials” as their ENLACE research project for the year. The Youth Engagement Committee held several meetings with the Mayfield ENLACE classes to explore this topic and to provide guidance for their research. A final presentation of their research was given at the statewide ENLACE conference in mid-March.

The committee feels very honored to have received this reward, and is extremely gratified for the recognition of its work. The awards ceremony, attended by approximately 100 people including many community and education leaders, was indeed a celebration, with committee members Jane Asche, Mike Milam, Lizz Taylor, Gwen Hanson and committee chair Erika Graf-Webster in attendance. In addition, the committee had invited the ENLACE students to the event. Four ENLACE students were able to attend, and they were brought up to the podium to participate in the awards presentation.

During the upcoming year, the committee plans to work with both Mayfield and Centennial High Schools in the development of a Civic Engagement curriculum that is produced collaboratively by the League and High School ENLACE students, and that can be rolled out eventually to Middle Schools, so that students at a fairly early age can understand the value of civic and community engagement and the importance of voting.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS – MAY 2017**

May 2	Doña Ana Soil & Water Conservation District Election
May 4	May Board Retreat, 4014 Pamela Pl, 12 – 4 p.m.
May 8	Dinner with a Leader, Ken Miyagishimi, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
May 18	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday Book Club, 2:00 p.m., Home of Marjorie Burr, <u>White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America</u> by Nancy Isenberg.
May 19-21	LWVNM State Convention, Santa Fe, Hilton Garden Inn

**LWVNM POSITION ON EDUCATION**

**Submitted by Barbara Goedecke**

The new LWVNM position on Education is in the Spring issue of La Palabra and reads as follows:

Education (Adopted 1987; revised 1995, 2009, 2015, 2016, revised by the LWVNM Board in 2017) The League of Women Voters of New Mexico (LWVNM) believes that education is the cornerstone for perpetuating a strong and viable democracy. The public education system should impart to all students an understanding of the nature of democracy and the responsibilities of citizenship, the ability to think critically, and the skills necessary to continue to learn and function as adults in a complex society. The League opposes the presence of private, for-profit companies in the governance, management, and provision of public education. **LWVNM believes that a regionally elected State Board of Education should be responsible for appointing a Superintendent of Public Instruction and directing education policy, regulation, and finances. (Returned to position, was removed at convention in 2005.)**

The State Board will update and edit all of LWVNM'S positions at convention. All who are attending need to bring a copy of this La Palabra with them.

**BONNIE BURN SCHOLARSHIP**

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. Designate the scholarship 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.

Send your tax-deductible contribution to:

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

**OBSERVER REPORT, SOUTH CENTRAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY****Submitted by Johnnie Aldrich**

*Background: When I first joined LWVGLC in 2003, Marjorie Burr was conducting the study that led to our Solid Waste Recycling position. (See p. 32 of our current Directory.)*

*I was active on that committee, which was instrumental in the beginning of recycling activities in both city and county. Thus began my interest in “trash.”*

*When Marnie Leverett began coordinating an LWVGLC Observer Corps several years later, I signed up to observe the monthly meetings of the Board of Directors of the newly formed South Central Solid Waste Authority and report on its activities. The Authority is an early attempt of city/county cooperation in the organization of public services.*

*Fortunately, Susan Schmugge joined me several years ago so that we now rotate the observing and reporting duties.*

*The Authority’s Board consists of three representatives from the Las Cruces City Council and three from the Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners, who serve on a rotating basis. Other members include the Mayor of Las Cruces, the County Manager (or a representative from that office), and the City of Las Cruces Chief Financial Officer. SCSWA Director Patrick Peck reports monthly to this Board.*

*During the past year, Susan or I have attended every meeting and reported the highlights of our observations. However, space limitations and/or the absence of an editor for The VOTER, have meant that our reports have not been printed. Therefore, we present the following brief overview:*

At the March 2017 meeting of the SCSWA Board, Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima commented, “This is the best, most efficient city/county partnership in the state.” He noted that from its beginning in 2005 with 22 employees and a 3 million dollar budget, the waste collection activities of the Authority have increased with our population. The Board and Director Peck now oversee 70 employees and a 12 million dollar budget.

Some agenda items are constant: the usual pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag, roll call to establish quorum, acceptance of minutes from previous meetings and work sessions, the presentation of financial reports.

In every meeting, though, planning for the future is featured. The Board must authorize expenditures, like the recent decision to invest over \$30,000 to update software from 2007. The new system will allow more efficient, accurate reporting of activity at the various collection centers around the county. Collection tonnage is reported: The 13,797 tons processed in February is a 5.3% increase over the same period in fiscal year 2016. (Tonnage does vary considerably from month to month depending upon the season and major weather events.) Plans for as many as four new collection centers in the county are also a possibility.

## ***DONATIONS TO HELP THE LEAGUE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR DEMOCRACY***

Submitted by Steve Litts

The mission of LWVGLC is to educate voters about the issues facing us, and what the candidates for public office hope to accomplish. To achieve that mission takes the volunteer work of the board, the committees and each LWVGLC member. It also requires financial support. That support comes from four revenue streams: Dues, the Education Fund, the Donations to the Operating Fund and Fundraising Events. This past year those revenue streams funded projects as follows: Dues, 46.1%; Education Fund, 25.1%; Donations to the Operating Fund, 11.6%; and Fundraising Events, .01%. The rest of the funds were covered from carryover from the past year, a balance that is decreasing.

Your board is exploring remedies to our decreasing financial strength. Clearly the strategy will need to include an increase in revenues and a decrease in expenses. New technologies offer some options for reaching the voting public at reduced costs. At this point, however, how much can be reduced remains to be determined. The balance will require a more vigorous donation campaign. To that end, there are already donation options that are available to you, our members and friends, which may also offer you a tax advantage. Read on -

### ***HOW TO MAKE A DONATION TO LWVUS EDUCATION FUND***

The process to donate is simple: on the Internet go to [https://salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5950/p/salsa/donation/common/public/?donate\\_page\\_KEY=10918](https://salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5950/p/salsa/donation/common/public/?donate_page_KEY=10918) and complete the process. BE SURE to designate your donation to LWVGLC so we get the proper credit in our account.

The donation page on the LWVUS web page states "Donations to the LWVUS, a 501(c)(4) organization, are not tax-deductible." Nevertheless, our local has an Education Fund account with LWVUS that provides a way to contribute to our local league. However, we can only withdraw amounts that a) qualify as educational (i.e.: the Voter Guide) and b) do not exceed the balance in our account.

We will continue to research means of making donations tax deductible, since we seem to have conflicting information.

If you have an IRS or Trust account, you can request your bank or broker to send a donation made out to LWVUS Ed Fund to us at LWVGLC, PO Box 8322, Las Cruces NM 88006. We will complete the donation form for you and send it, with the check from your bank or broker to the national. Consult with your banker or broker to initiate your donation. It's a win-win opportunity. We thank you in advance