

LWV

the VOTER

*League of Women Voters of
Greater Las Cruces***May 2018****Volume 50****Issue 1***See page 2 for table of contents*

Reunion Picnic

Saturday, May 5, 2018**11 A.M. - 2 P.M.****Pioneer Women's Park****N. Raymond St. and. W. Court Ave.**

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN LAS CRUCES - LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

To celebrate 50 years in Las Cruces, League members will enjoy each other's company at a picnic in Pioneer Park on May 5, 2018. Come meet and greet your League friends, new and old. Relax and reminisce while we mark the 50th anniversary of the League of Women Voters in Las Cruces by planting a new tree in the park. Help decorate the tree for the event. You and your family are welcome to help celebrate all the great work we have accomplished over the last half century! Reservations are necessary to enjoy the box lunch and beverages. Chairs provided.

Members are encouraged to join in celebration by

- Honoring a League Member in the 50th Anniversary booklet
- Contributing to the Anniversary Fund

The LWVGLC 50th Anniversary booklet will contain our history from 1967 through 2018, decade by decade accomplishments of the League, local position statements over 50 years and commendations of League members and their contributions.

To nominate a member for commendation, send a short biography with name, dates of membership and contributions, a photograph and three to five sentences stating the reason you are honoring her. Include your name and contact information. Mail the nomination to LWVGLC, 50th Anniversary Committee, P.O. Box 15142, Las Cruces, NM 88004.

Financial contributions in honor of the 50th Anniversary will be used to support not only the celebration activities but also the ALL the priority activities of this League in 2018, an important election year and a year to grow voters and voter understanding.

The 50th Anniversary Fund offers the opportunity to contribute especially to the League of Women Voters of Las Cruces—once in a lifetime. This request is for a contribution above and beyond your usual dues and contributions.

Contribute either to the LWVGLC Operating Fund **or** the LWVGLC Education Fund. The Board of LWVGLC will manage the funds. Operating funds may be used, for example, for scholarships for membership dues; youth engagement projects, advocacy for positions taken after membership study and consensus. Education funds may be used for voter services activities, for example, candidate information publications and forums; publication of *Who's Who*, an information booklet about elected officials; other non-partisan informational and educational activities.

To contribute to the LWVGLC 50th Anniversary Fund, mail your check (with a memo note to "LWVGLC 50th Anniversary Fund") to the nomination to LWVGLC, 50th Anniversary Committee, P.O. Box 15142, Las Cruces, NM 88004.

MAY 2018 VOTER

Volume 50, Issue 1

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

P.O. Box 15142

Las Cruces NM. 88004

(575) 524-VOTE (8683)

www.lwvglc.org

President – Kim Sorenson

Vice-President, Events & Speakers –
Cindy Murrell

Secretary – Ashley Beyer

Treasurer – William Little

Voter Services – Vicki Simons
and Dale Yeo

Membership Co-Directors – MaryEllen
Kebbel and Caprice Benoit

Nominating Committee – Jane Asche
and Judith LaPointe

Editor, VOTER – Bonnie Votaw

TABLE OF CONTENTS

May 2018 Volume 50 Issue 1

Page 1	Celebrating 50 Years
Page 2	Table of Contents & LWVGLC Information
Page 3	President's Message
Page 4	2018-2019 LWVGLC Board
Page 5	Upcoming Events
Page 6	In Memory of Olga Pedroza
Page 7	Voting in the Primary Election
Pages 7-13	Observers Posts
	+Page 11 Changing Water Rates
	+Page 12 Citizens Police Academy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MAY 2018

Thanks to all who attended the 2018 Annual Business Meeting. We had about 30 attendees.

Here are some of the highlights:

- Certificate of Appreciation to the following people for their significant contributions
 - Gwen Hanson for her leadership: 6 years as board member including past president and for her mentorship
 - Dale Yeo as outstanding Webmaster, and editor of the Voter Guides and Who's Who
 - Susan Schmugge for leadership on re-instituting the Observer Corp and MaryEllen Knapp as outstanding Observer Corp Member
 - Erika Graf-Webster as Director of YEC and head of the Voter Impediments Study
 - William Little for stepping up when we needed him; Redoing the Membership Directory and taking over as Treasurer
 - Marjorie Burr for outstanding work as Chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee
- All members of the YEC, 50th Anniversary, and Affordable Housing Committees and all 2017 Board Members were acknowledged. Christy Sorg was thanked for volunteering to be interim Vice President. Christy has agreed to continue taking reservations for the Membership dinners.
- Members approved the motion to increase dues to \$65 (\$32.50 for additional family) effective May 1. **Please remember to send in your dues in May to our new PO Box: 15142. Zip 88004.**



Welcome to our new Board members!!

Cindy Murrell - Vice President

Ashley Beyer - Secretary

MaryEllen Kebbel and **Caprice Benoit** - Co-directors of Membership

Jane Asche - Re-elected Chair of the Nominating Committee and **Judy La Pointe**-Elected Member Nominating Committee

Dale Yeo, Vicki Simons - re-elected as Co-directors Voter Services

Gwen Hanson and Dale Yeo will be the two delegates to the LWVUS Convention in Chicago June 28-July 1. Gwen Hanson and Kim Sorensen will attend the LWVNM Council May 19. Place to be announced. Any member is welcome to attend the council as a visitor. Let me know.

Finally, **Don't forget about the 50th Anniversary Picnic May 5th from 11-2 at Pioneer Woman's Park!!! The picnic will take the place of our normal Dinner with a Leader. PLEASE COME!!**

Warmly,
Kim Sorensen
President



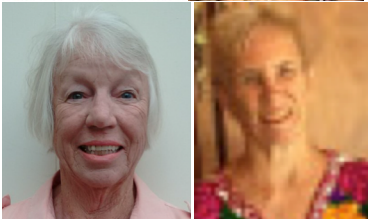
2018-2019 LWVGLC BOARD



**Kim Sorenson
President**



**Cindy Murrell, Vice President
Ashley Beyer, Secretary
William Little, Treasurer**



**Vicki Simons
Dale Yeo
Voter Services**



**MaryEllen Kebbel
Caprice Benoit
Membership
Co-Directors**



**Jane Asche, Chair
Nominating Committee
Judith LaPointe, Member
Nominating Committee**



Bonnie Votaw, Editor

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1	50 th Anniversary Committee Meeting, Good Samaritan's E 2 nd Floor West Lounge
May 3	LWVGLC Board Meeting
May 5	50 th Anniversary Picnic 11 - 2 Pioneer Women's Park
May 17	Youth Engagement Committee 3:30 Branigan Library
May 17	New Member Orientation 7 - 8:30 pm 1219 Dry Creek Pl
May 19	LWVNM Council May 19, 2018 MCM Elegante, 2020 Menaul Blvd NE, Albuquerque 11:30 - 3:00M
May 24	LWVGLC Book Club 2 - 4 pm <u>How Democracies Die</u> , Marjorie Burr's House
May 31	New Member Orientation 11:30 - 1:00, 4014 Pamela Pl
June 28	LWVUS 53 rd National Convention, Chicago, Illinois
– July 1	

NOTE: You are invited to the LWVGLC Book Club meeting on
Thursday, MAY 24, 2:00 at the home of MARJORIE BURR.

Book Selection for May 24 at Marjorie's	<p>How Democracies Die, by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt (Best Seller)</p> <p>Donald Trump's presidency has raised a question that many of us never thought we'd be asking: Is our democracy in danger? Harvard professors Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt have spent more than twenty years studying the breakdown of democracies in Europe and Latin America, and they believe the answer is yes. Democracy no longer ends with a bang—in a revolution or military coup—but with a whimper: the slow, steady weakening of critical institutions, such as the judiciary and the press, and the gradual erosion of long-standing political norms. The good news is that there are several exit ramps on the road to authoritarianism. The bad news is, by electing Trump, we have already passed the first one.</p>
--	--

National Convention 2018 *any League member may attend*

The 53rd National Convention is June 28-July 1 in Chicago, IL. **All available information on the convention can be found [here](#).** Please contact membership@lww.org with any Convention related questions or concerns.

- **Hotel Rooms:** Our room block at the Hilton Chicago has reached capacity and we are working with the hotel on a solution. **If you have not booked your hotel room please stay tuned for further updates from us.**
- **Registration is open!** You can register online [here](#). The Early Bird Registration rate is \$450.

REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES
Plus +++
A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In Memory of OLGA PEDROZA

By Judith LaPointe

I first met Olga in the year 2000 when I went to the Legal Aid Office to volunteer. Olga was surprised, but accepted me and then watched me very closely to be sure I was doing the job right. I was charmed by her open friendly manner, and her courtesy. We found we worked well together and I learned a great deal from her. She was probably the best lawyer I have ever known.

She was born in the town of San Luis in the state of Ayucan in Mexico in 1943, and came to the U.S. three years later with her parents, who settled in Chicago. Olga attended catholic schools there and graduated from Mundelein College with a degree in education. Her parents had both been teachers in Mexico and they taught their children to be proud of their Mexican heritage. Olga kept her Mexican citizenship all her life. She still owned a house in Mexico where she lived for a while after she retired from Legal Aid.

Olga and I served together on the board of the Women's Intercultural Center in Anthony. We traveled together to Washington D.C. to march against the Iraq war. We visited Cuba with the National Lawyer's Guild. And we walked her district together when she served on the City Council. She always asked her constituents to tell her what they would like the City to do and she listened carefully before she responded. Most importantly, she always answered truthfully and she always followed up with them.

The last time we had lunch together was at Josefina's Gate last December. We talked about the future. We spoke about making another trip to Havana together where Cuban doctors had discovered a new drug that activated a patient's own immune system to cure their cancer. Olga had been playing tennis and was feeling tired. We agreed to call each other after the first of the year, but Olga never called.

Later her daughter called to tell me she had cancer. I went to see her and she told me she had made up her mind to stop eating and drinking. We kissed each other and said goodbye. The following week she became a hospice patient.

VOTING IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION JUNE 5

The purpose of this section of the VOTER is to direct you to lists of candidates and to provide information about where and when you can vote.

Registration to vote ends **May 8**. **Early voting will be May 8 – June 2**. There are six alternate early voting **locations**: Anthony Elementary School, DACC Sunland Park, Delores C. Wright Educational Center, Hatch High School, Sonoma Elementary School and Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. **The election is June 5**.

The primary election this year has many **candidates** for several offices. To see who they are go the LWVGLC website <http://www.lwvglc.org/>

On the LWVGLC website look just below the photograph to find important links:

- Candidates, State of New Mexico (State and Federal Offices)
- Candidates, Doña Ana County (County Offices and District Representatives)
- Doña Ana County Election Information

PDF candidate files can be downloaded from the website. (Thanks to Dale Yeo for compiling readable and accurate lists of the candidates. Barbara Goedecke also contributed to this effort.) You can print the PDF files off to have a ready election resource.

The Doña Ana County Election Information web site contains a Link to a PDF sample ballot on same page.

JUDICIARY RACES Local **probate judges** are on the Candidates, Doña Ana County list. **State and other judges** are listed on the Candidates, State of New Mexico (State and Federal Offices) pdf. Many judges are running unopposed. Candidates for judge are evaluated at the State level, but evaluations are not yet posted. The NM Judicial Performance Evaluation website will have information later in the year. <https://www.nmjpec.org/en/>

Information about candidates in the primary election is available by viewing KRWG candidate forums and by reading the newspaper. The Sun-News anticipates articles on all the candidates.

OBSERVERS POSTS

NOTE: OBSERVERS POSTS were omitted from the last issue of the VOTER. Consequently, this issue contains many and varied observations, by our members, of the representative bodies in our community. Of particular interest are observations of the City Utilities Board and Advisory Group. These posts represent hours of meeting attendance and note-taking so League members have current information our elected and administrative officials.

OBSERVER REPORT by Mary Ellen Knapp

Las Cruces, NM City Council, April 16, 2018

Regular Meeting

Mayor and five Councilors present – Councilor Vasquez absent

Agenda items of particular interest

APPROVED – Resolution supporting the White Sands National Park Establishment Act. Dara Parker, field representative for U. S. Senator Martin Heinrich, addressed councilors regarding a bill Senator Heinrich will be introducing very soon, proposing the elevation of White Sands National Monument to a National Park. It would also involve land exchange with White Sands Missile Range. The monument has been the most visited park in New Mexico; and Ms. Parker added that national parks are perceived to be more prestigious by the traveling public, which could boost tourism. (6 ayes – 1 absent)

APPROVED – A resolution approving an agreement between the City of Las Cruces and Mesilla Valley Community of Hope for the Mano Y Mano Day Labor Program. This program, which will begin May 1, will give the homeless or nearly homeless people an opportunity to make money performing landscaping and other types of work for the Parks and Recreation Department rather than having to panhandle. One city van will be used to transport 5-10 people working 2 days a week. The program could eventually grow to 10-20 people working 5 days a week. (6 ayes – 1 absent).

Las Cruces, NM City Council, April 2, 2018

Regular Meeting

Mayor and All Councilors present

The single Agenda item was of particular interest:

APPROVED – Resolution supporting Las Cruces Renewable Energy Future. Renewable energy goals are to provide 25% of energy consumption from solar power by 2022, 50% from wind and solar power by 2030 and 100% from wind and solar power by 2050. New Mexico is considered the 2nd sunniest and 12th windiest state in the U.S. While details don't need to be decided at this point, there was discussion of future possibilities; i.e., public/private partnership, selling surplus production, plus the improvement in air quality and reduction in water usage.

Nine members of the audience (including State Senator Jeff Steinborn and Representative Nathan Small) spoke In Favor of the resolution – none Against. (7 ayes)

OBSERVER REPORTS by Mary Ellen Knapp

Las Cruces, NM City Council, March 19, 2018

Regular Meeting

Mayor and All Councilors present

The League's role is tested when a meeting lasts six hours and when so many guns are there.

Agenda items of particular interest:

APPROVED – Resolution adopting the Airport Action Plan and Airport Layout Plan set for the Las Cruces International Airport. This is long-term planning for future growth in airport activity that may require such improvements as a new terminal building, runway extension, electrical work, etc. (7 ayes)

TABLED - Resolution to better ensure the safety of students in Las Cruces schools. The resolution requests “that our New Mexico Legislature and our Governor act to better secure the safety and education of our young people by restricting the sale and possession of semi-automatic weapons and any devices intended to convert another weapon into or simulate an automatic or semi-automatic weapon in New Mexico.” Numerous contacts from constituents were received by councilors regarding concern for the safety of students while attending school and the fear students have in attending school.

It's been estimated that approximately 300 people attended the council meeting, of which nearly 60 spoke to the resolution. As a result of the great interest, the Council tabled the resolution, which will be taken up in a Work Session on May 14 at 6:00 p.m. - location to be announced.

OBSERVER REPORTS by Mary Ellen Knapp

Las Cruces, NM City Council, March 5, 2018

Regular Meeting

Mayor and All Councilors present

Agenda item of particular interest:

APPROVED – Four resolutions concerning Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery's new off-site location at 119 North Main Street in downtown Las Cruces for on-premises consumption and package sales, with patio service. Food will also be served, and they expect to begin with 10 employees. Two councilors familiar with the Silver City location of the business expressed opinions that it will be an asset to the downtown area and fit well with the strategic plan. No one appeared to speak For or Against the resolutions in the two Public Hearings held just prior to Council's voting. (6 ayes, 1 absent for each resolution.)

Las Cruces, NM, City Council, February 20, 2018

Regular Meeting

Mayor and All Councilors present

Agenda item of particular interest:

APPROVED – A resolution authorizing the development and execution of a \$361,000 Purchased Services Agreement with Family and Youth Incorporated to provide operational support for reopening the short-term stay emergency youth shelter services at 880 Idaho Street. The agreement will cover training and staffing, food, and utilities expenses to operate the 16-bed facility for one year, ending June of 2019. (7 ayes)

APRIL OBSERVER'S REPORT

Susan Schmugge, Observer

Board of Commissioners for the City of Las Cruces Utilities

March 8, 2018

Work and Regular Sessions

Present: 6 of 7 Commissioners (Sorg out)

Stantec devoted the 2-hour work session to a presentation and discussion about the rate design for the Rate Setting Process. The second item was a presentation of the FY19 proposed budget. This budget will be approved at the April 12 regular meeting of LCU, and forwarded to the Las Cruces City Council for approval in May.

The regular meeting included an update by Mr. Patrick Peck, Executive Director of So. Central Solid Waste Authority, regarding proposed changes to the recycling program. 2 items were approved:

- Write of uncollectible Utility Accounts Receivable for FY2012 of \$569,972.61
- Awarding a contract of \$111,322.77 to Sandoval Construction, In. of Las Cruces for renovation of 2 restrooms in the Las Cruces Utilities building.

OBSERVER REPORT by Susan Schmugge

Utility Customer Advisory Group April 11, 2018

All 5 members present.

Approved final power point presentation to be shown to the public in order to get feedback about how customers would prefer water rate increase to be imposed; approved 4 posters explaining rate increase to be shown at public meetings & presentations; approved insert to be sent with bills to 32,000 customers regarding water rate increase; approved "Las Cruces Ground Water Supply Fact Sheet" to be available at public meetings and presentations regarding rate

increase. All items prepared for UCAG by Las Cruces Utility staff. Look for meeting dates of presentations and/or request a presentation for your group by through las-cruces.org/UCAG. Do it soon!

Board of Commissioners for the City of Las Cruces Utilities, April 12, 2018

All 7 members present

Approved \$40,000 addition to contract with Stantec Consulting for work on water and wastewater rate increases; approved money to replace 1 of 3 digesters at Jacob Hands Wastewater Treatment Facility; approved 2018/19 annual budget to be sent to Las Cruces City Council.

Heard NMDOT explain why bids for Valley Drive project came in at twice what the Engineer's Estimate called for. LCU is required to replace service lines when NMDOT is replacing road. Received latest report regarding the Supreme Court water case with TX, NM, CO and the new Special Master. Received copies of latest information approved by UCAG.

Changing Water Rates

Submitted by Johnnie R. Aldrich

We know that the cost of living is rising, as it always has. However, one aspect of our lives as residents of Doña Ana County (DAC) has not seen increased cost for the past 9 years.

We also know that we are dwellers in what is called a “high desert” and that water is among our most precious resources. Nonetheless, the cost of water for our household use is the same now as it was 9 years ago. Currently, the average residential monthly cost of water is \$27.55.

Over a year ago, the Utility Customer Advisory Group (UCAG) was formed to study the possibility of increasing the rates charged for those necessities (water, gas, trash collection, sewers) for which we receive monthly bills from Las Cruces Utilities (LCU). This group of volunteers, UCAG, has worked diligently during many months, studying current conditions and practices in water management and consulting experts from outside sources.

Now, before making a final recommendation to the City Council, the UCAG wants to hear from us, the users of water. Households that use more than 10,000 gallons of water monthly can expect a \$2.25 monthly increase. The main reasons for a series of public information meetings for residents are twofold: (1) further explanation of the reasons for the increase and (2) the question of whether the increase should be a full-cost immediate implementation or a phased-in procedure.

Open Houses will be held at multiple sites around the city. ALL are scheduled from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on the following dates:

Wednesday, May 2 — Lynn Middle School Cafeteria, 950 S. Walnut St.

Thursday, May 3 — Frank O'Brien Papen Center Auditorium, 304 Bell Ave.

Tuesday, May 8 — City Hall Council Chambers (Full Presentation), 700 N. Main St.

Wednesday, May 9 — LCU Conference Room 218 (Utilities Building), (Full Presentation), 680 N. Motel Blvd.

UCAG Chair Eugene Suttmiller or other members of the committee and LCU employees will be at each meeting to interact with the public.

Readers who want more information before attending any of the meetings can go to www.las-cruces.org and "search" for "UCAG." Email questions/comments can be sent to ucag@las.cruces.org.

Source: Suzanne Michaels, **Las Cruces Sun-News**, Sunday, April 22, 2018, p. 1B.



OBSERVER REPORT

Citizens Police Academy

Dale E. Yeo

I recently attended the Citizen's Police Academy, a professionally presented series of informative and enjoyable classes designed to familiarize the public with the operations of DASO and the officers who are responsible for them and to encourage volunteerism. Politics aside, I am convinced of the efforts and goodwill of the officers who must run DASO with

inadequate staff and salaries not commensurate with the risks and responsibilities they must take.

I took careful notes at each session and have included a link to a short journal I wrote for each (2 pages plus one or more pictures). I can just about guarantee that you will learn some things from looking at these, although it will not be as impactful and interesting as actually taking the course. Courses are offered two times a year and include not only direct instruction but also tours of facilities, demonstrations and hands-on exercises.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/z0jl3uhhd4cx2hw/AAAqOjODvIZrVCjA7k969CmPa?dl=0>

Below is a list of the topics covered:

Active Shooters / Drugs
Criminal Investigations / Crime Scenes
Detention / Canine Corps
Domestic Violence / Mental Illness
Introduction / Patrol Functions
Sex Offenders / MVDA (911 +)
Special Response Team / Bomb Squad
