

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





Dinner with a Leader

Adventures and Misadventures with Standardized Testing

Steven Sanchez, Ph.D., Retired Las Cruces Public Schools Deputy Superintendent

Monday, October 12, 2015 5:15– 6:45 p.m

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

Steven Sánchez, a classroom teacher for 23 years, is currently serving as a middle grades mathematics and English language arts teacher for the Los Lunas Public Schools Family School. In June of this year, Dr. Sánchez retired from the Las Cruces Public Schools as its Deputy Superintendent. Dr. Sánchez serves on the Board of Directors for the Southwestern Branch of the International Dyslexia Association, the NMSU Board of Advocates for the College of Education, and the New Mexico North Central Association Council on Accreditation and School Improvement. He has served on numerous boards including the *Cable in the Classroom*'s National Education Advisory Board, *T.H.E.* Journal Editorial Board, the George Lucas Educational Foundation, and the Educational Broadcasting Corporation's *Video in Teaching and Learning* (VITAL) initiative. In January 2004, Dr. Sánchez retired from the New Mexico Department of Education where he served as the Acting Assistant Superintendent for Learning Services; the Director for Curriculum, Instruction, and Learning Technologies; and State Technology Director. From 1995-1997, Dr. Sánchez served as an Associate Program Director in the Networking Infrastructure for the Education Program at the National Science Foundation in Arlington, Virginia.

Standardized tests have been part of public education in America since the mid-1800s. Their use skyrocketed with the implementation of the *No Child Left Behind Act* in 2002. The federal government, even though it relegated the powers of education to the States, held all 50 states hostage with the threat of withholding federal funds if provisions of the Act, notably requirements for testing students annually, were not implemented in all public schools.

Those in favor of testing assert that standardized tests are a fair and objective measure of student achievement, ensure teachers and schools are accountable to taxpayers, and that the most relevant constituents – parents and students – approve of testing. Opponents, on the other hand, say the tests are neither fair nor objective, that their use promotes a narrow curriculum and drill-like "teaching to the test," and that excessive testing undermines America's ability to produce innovators and critical thinkers.

This presentation will provide information on both sides of the argument and provide those in attendance time to share their unique perspective on testing. For those interested, suggested background reading is *Making the Grades: My Misadventures in the Standardized Testing Industry* by Todd Farley (2009)

Come and invite your friends. Be sure to <u>RSVP by October 4, 2015</u>. You can email Ardyth Norem at <u>an.lwv.reservations@icloud.com</u> or call Gwen Hanson at 556-9251.

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The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

P.O. Box 8322 Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322 (575) 524-VOTE (8683) Web Site: www.lwvglc.org

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Water Issues

Win Jacobs - 521-9331

Action Committee

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President's Message

Gwendolyn (Gwen) Hanson

October 2015



October is the month of Las Cruces Municipal Election campaigning, leading up to the November 3, 2015 Election. LWVGLC committee work kicks into high gear, and we collaborate with various community groups to advocate for those issues that have been identified earlier in the year as priorities for 2015-2016. It is also the time when the work of registering, informing, and educating our community about one of the most important responsibilities of citizenship - EXERCISING YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE. As we begin a new election cycle, it is important to reflect on our mission of being and maintaining our nonpartisanship – the League of Women Voters neither endorses nor opposes any candidate.

Voter Services is hard at work to organize activities associated with the municipal election: publication of the 2015 Voters Guide, and organizing a Candidate Forum. Election Procedures Committee members have developed new educational materials to better inform our community about the process of voting, and voter Registration has begun.

We continue to build our individual and League capacity through participation in committee work, monthly meetings, and book club. For example Dr. George Mychashiw, Founding Dean and Chief Academic Officer of the Burrell School of Osteopathic Medicine described for us at the September monthly meeting the value of having a medical education institution in our community, as well as a glimpse of the health care needs of our local area and the State of New Mexico.

Participation during the month of October includes the opportunity to join us for the presentation of Dr. Steven Sanchez, entitled "Adventures and Misadventures with Standardized Testing", October 12, 2015. Also, please plan to participate with your fellow members at our Unit Meeting, October 29, 2015 to address the questions posed by the LWVUS Consensus Study Proposal: Amending the Constitution. Dr. Daniel Chand, NMSU, has been invited to discuss this very challenging issue.

It is an exciting time of year, as the days grow shorter, and the temperature begins to reflect a change of season. We welcome your interest in our league's priorities and activities. Come join us!

Congratulations to League member, **Kelly Burnham**, for her recent appointment by Governor Susanna Martinez to the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy Board.

Thank you to Tarin Nix, LWVNM State Board Communications Director for her recent visit to our September monthly meeting in Las Cruces.

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Board Meeting Highlights, September, 2015 - Gwen Hanson, President

On-Going and Operational Activities:

Ruth Benjamins, Treasurer, reported that the **Annual Financial Review** had been completed by William Little. The financial records were found to be in order.

Membership Directories were distributed at the August and September monthly meetings, and will be available at the September meeting. Unclaimed directories will be mailed.

Gwen Hanson, Ardyth Norem, and Ruth Benjamins met with Las Cruces Public School Foundation, Executive Director, Betsy Geery, to discuss sustainability issues of the Bonnie Burn Scholarship Fund. This scholarship fund was established as an "Expendable Donor Advised Fund", compared to and contrasted with the LCPS Endowment, which requires a \$5000.00 minimum balance. The "Expendable Fund" agreement was approved by the Board, as well as the decision to transfer the balance of scholarship funds from LWVGLC to the LCPS Foundation, who will continue to administer the funds. Ruth Benjamins will deliver the signed agreement and check to Betsy Geery for future annual scholarship disbursement. For sustainability March was chosen as the annual fund-raising month for the scholarship. Checks are to be written directly to LCPS Foundation-Bonnie Burn Scholarship in order for the donation to be properly credited.

Voter Services activities were discussed. Dale Yeo reported that the **2015 Voters Guide** is in progress. As candidate filing for the Las Cruces Municipal Election is completed September 22, questionnaires will be sent and information gathered from all the candidates, to be published in the October 18, 2015 *Las Cruces Sun-News*. In addition, a single **Candidate Forum** has been scheduled for October 21, 2015, at City Hall. Finally, **Voter Registration** activities have begun with Marjorie Burr coordinating.

Bonnie Votaw gave a report on the Engagement Action Plan, a proposed Membership Committee activity, representing a LWVGLC partnership with Las Cruces Public Schools for the multiple purposes of informing high school seniors in local high schools of their voting rights and opportunity to register to vote, student participation in developing voting information materials, and offering educational presentations about the work of the League of Women Voters for future membership.

The planning for the **Consensus Meeting** focused on the LWVUS study item on a Constitutional Amendment, deadline December 1, 2015, has begun. Erika Graf-Webster reported contacting Dr. Daniel Chand, Assistant Professor, Department of Government, NMSU, as a presenter-participant on this topic. The Consensus Meeting is planned for October, and will include lunch at Good Sam's. All members are invited to attend and participate in the discussion and complete the consensus questions. The Consensus Meeting focused on Money in Politics has a February 1, 2016, deadline. Planning will begin in October.

New Business:

The new LWVGLC **Voter Information brochures** are being printed at ABC Printing, and will be available for distribution beginning September 14, 2015.

The Board approved the purchase of a new projector screen. Our League now owns an audio system, projector, and screen, offering high quality audio-visual equipment for our invited speakers.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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CALENDAR

October 1 (Thursday) - LWVGLC Board Meeting, City Hall, Room 2007A, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

October 6 (Tuesday) - Last day to register to vote before the Las Cruces Municipal Election

October 7 (Wednesday) - Absentee voting on paper ballots begins

October 12 (Monday) - LWVGLC Monthly Meeting, Good Sam's, 5:15-6:45 p.m., Dr. Steven Sanchez, Speaker

October 14 (Wednesday) - Absentee voting on ImageCast Evolution tabulators begins

October 15 (Thursday) - Third Thursday Book Club, End of College, 2:00-4:00 p.m., at International Delights, 1245 El Paseo Road

October 18 (Sunday) - 2015 Voter's Guide published in the Sun News

October 21 (Wednesday) - Candidate Forum, City Hall, Council Chambers, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

October 29 (Thursday) - LWVGLC Unit Meeting - Constitutional Amendment Consensus Meeting, Daniel Chand, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Government, NMSU, Speaker-Participant, 12:00-3:00 p.m., Good Sam's Conference Room.

All members are invited to attend. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Ardyth Norem by October 22.

October 31 (Saturday) - All absentee voting ends, Las Cruces Municipal Election

November 3 (Tuesday) - Election Day





Help Grow Our Numbers



Invite a friend, colleague, or relative to Dinner with a Leader on October 12th.

Membership:

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

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

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League News



League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

Las Cruces Municipal Election

CANDIDATES FORUM

Wednesday, October 21, 2015 - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. City Hall, Council Chambers

Broadcast live on CLC TV Comcast Cable Ch. 20

Candidates for Mayor, City Council (Districts 1, 2, 4) and Presiding Municipal Judge

SAVE THE DATE

Please HELP with Voter Services For Fall Municipal Election

Marcia Anderson, Reporting

The **Voters Guide** for the Fall Municipal Election is to be published in the *Las Cruces Sun-News* on Sunday, October 18. You can help by:

Proofreading between October 12-14 Distributing after October 18

Voter Services will also be hosting a **Candidates Forum** on Wednesday, October 21 in the Las Cruces City Hall, Council Chambers. Please come to the Forum and encourage your friends and neighbors to also attend. Better informed voters make better choices. We need volunteers to fill the following roles:

Greeters to hand out to attendees 3 x 5 cards and pencils for questions Runners to get cards to screeners and moderator Screeners to go through the questions for appropriateness, relevance A person to act as Timer to indicate to candidates time left and time to stop

To help in any area please contact Marcia Anderson by phone: 575-523-1317 or by email at: maanders211@yahoo.com

Offices up for election are **City Council Districts 1,2,4**; **Mayor**; **Presiding Municipal Judge Division 1**.

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3, 2015.

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League News





Please welcome our newest members to the LWVGLC and add their information to your membership directory.

Mary Ann Flynn

1721 Pine Valley Drive Las Cruces, NM 88011 575-521-3330 maflynn@zianet.com

Priscilla Parrish

4941 Modoc Trail Las Cruces, NM 88011 575-521-3484 fhparrish@zianet.com

Martha Potter

6620 Butterfield Ridge Drive 575-635-7980 mlp@2potters.net

Wendi Miller-Tomlinson wcmiller11@gmail.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



Third Thursday Book Club Meeting 2:00-4:00 p.m.

October 15 - The End of College: Creating the Future of Learning and the University of Everywhere by Kevin Carev

International Delights, 1245 El Paseo Road

November 19 - The Road to Character by David Brooks International Delights, 1245 El Paseo Road

New Members are Welcome!

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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.

Observer Report South Central Solid Waste Authority Board meeting, August 20, 2015 680 N. Motel Blvd, Las Cruces, NM

Susan Schmugge, Observer

In this regularly scheduled Board meeting the Board heard the monthly report of activity from Director Patrick Peck. The reports for June and July showed an increase in the amount of solid waste and recycling processed in those months, where normally this would not occur. Along with that good news Mr. Peck reported on the summer work of cleaning up illegal dump sites on BLM land. This work was funded through a BLM grant and addressed all known-about illegal dump sites. The summer employees hired for this project all came away from their experiences with a deeper appreciation of the work involved within the industry, The Board is interested in using student internships to further publicize the work of the Solid Waste Authority and educate people to the career opportunities available.

From Hatch to Sunland Park your South Central Solid Waste Authority is working for you as it creates a better environment for all of us and achieves this in a responsible manner and wise use of its resources.

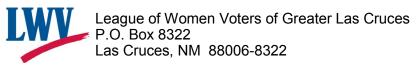
NOTABLE WOMEN IN HISTORY

IDA B. WELLS 1862-1931

Born in Mississippi as a slave, Ida B. Wells became a journalist and moved to New York. She began an international speaking tour where she influenced the establishment of the British Anti-Lynching Society. She cofounded the NAACP in America and organized the first Black women's political organization. A Chicago housing project is named in her honor.

Read more about Ida B. Wells at: http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/ stories people wells.html





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Las Cruces Cíty

FIRST CLASS

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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)

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.

Mail checks to LWV of Greater Las Cruces,

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

Information Links

LWV - Greater Las Cruces
www.lwvglc.org
LWV - GLC Who's Who
www.lwvglc.org
LWV - New Mexico
www.lwvnm.org
LWV - United States
www.lwv.org

City of Las Cruces
www.las-cruces.org
Las Cruces Public Schools
www.lcps.ks12.nm.us
New Mexico State University
www.nmsu.edu
Dona Ana Community College
http://dacc.nmsu.edu

Dona Ana County http://donaanacounty.org

State of New Mexico
www.newmexico.gov
New Mexico Secretary of State
www.sos.state.nm.us
New Mexico Legislature
www.nmlegis.gov/lcs

U.S. Senate
www.senate.gov
U.S. House of Representatives
www.house.gov
U.S. White House
www.whitehouse.gov