



DINNER WITH A LEADER

October 8, 5-7 p.m., Good Samaritan

Our guest speaker for the October 8 dinner meeting is Dr. Jim Peach. He is an expert on economic development with a focus on the border region, and he plans to share with us his insights into (1) the conditions of the US and New Mexico economies, (2) the oil and gas industry, and (3) NAFTA. He will leave plenty of time to answer your questions.

From 1980 until July 1, 2018, Jim Peach was a faculty member in the Department of Economics at New Mexico State University. He now holds emeritus status. When he retired, he was Regents Professor, Chevron Endowed Professor, and Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA.

Peach has received numerous awards for teaching, research and service, and he has published widely.

Each year he gives many public presentations and media appearances on topics such as the national economy, the New Mexico economy, international trade, and energy. Peach is the past president of (1) the Western Social Science Association, (2) the Association for Evolutionary Economics, (3) the Association for Borderlands Studies, and (4) the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies. During the past year he was honored to receive the Veblen-Commons Award from the Association for Evolutionary Economics, and the lifetime achievement award from the Association for Borderlands Studies.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings All,



LWVGCLC members are now the thick of putting on forums and collaborating with the EAC on voter registration events and the Celebrate Democracy in Dona Ana County Event. The Election will soon be over, and we can get on with other important matters. Thanks to all who volunteered to help. Please see the calendar as we have more events coming up.

The Education Forum: School/Community Partnerships; Ensuring All Our Children Succeed was held on September 20th. Thank you to Jane Asche for coordinating this event. Dr. Steven A. Sanchez, LCPS Deputy Superintendent of Instruction & Student Information Systems gave the introduction and Jane Asche was the moderator: Other Speakers and their topics included:

Lori Martinez
Executive Director of Ngage New Mexico

Why is the Yazzie and Martinez v. State of New Mexico “landmark” lawsuit filed by the NM Center on Law and Poverty and MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) important to the future of our NM schools?

Dr. Betsy Cahill
Co-Director of the School for Teacher Preparation, Administration & Leadership, College of Education, NMSU

What does the research tell us about the importance of early childhood education in preparing all of our children for success in school and life?

Dr. Maria Artiaga
LCPS Executive Director of Federal Programs

How are early childhood systems supported at the national, state and local levels and why it is important to have citizen advocacy for government support?

Maria Zuniga
Programs Manager, Children’s Reading Alliance

What does a school/community partnership that supports foundational early childhood education look like on the ground (First Teacher/Primer Maestro)?

Mary Parr Sanchez
LCPS Community School Liaison
NEA NM Vice President

What does the research tell us about the value of community schools and the six pillars of an effective community school?

Sylvia Chavez
Community School Administrator
Lynn Middle School

What does a community school look like on the ground at the middle school level (Lynn Middle School Model)?

The forum was well received, and discussion lasted well past the allotted time.

The September membership meeting turned out to be very productive. After hearing reports from the leaders of our committees (Youth Engagement, Voter Services, Observer Corp, and the Voter Impediment Study), Ashley gave a report on the need for a Development Committee. Thank you to Ashley, Erika, Lizz, Barbara, and Mary for being the first members of this important committee. We could use a few more members so if you are interested please let me know. This is a very important endeavor as the committee will be responsible for developing a framework to nourish relationships that are strong and lasting to enable us to accomplish our important work. We have worthwhile projects that need more funding than our dues and current donations can meet, not to mention rising printing costs and copying costs associated with our ongoing publications.

Finally, the meeting ended with a lively discussion on what LWVGLC can do to maximize our impact for DAC in 2019. Advocating for adequate funding for education rose to the top of the list. I will call a unit meeting in October for those who are interested in being part of this advocacy group. We need to come up with a plan. I'm hoping that we can all get behind this effort and make a difference.

Besides education, we are also committed to advocating for the LWVNM priorities for the upcoming legislative session, approved by the state board in July. These priorities include Tax Reform and Funding, Automatic Voter Registration, Redistricting (Iowa Model), and Reproductive Choice. Dick Mason, the LWVNM's lobbyist will be speaking about the priorities at the November 12th Lunch with a Leader. Please try to attend. Don't forget about the October 3 and 4 forums at the County Government Building! October 3rd will be with the state representative candidates and the 4th will have candidates from the local elections (except the sheriff).

Also, Celebrate Democracy in Dona Ana County is on October 9th at the County Government Building from 10:00-2:00. Come and show your support for our young voters!

Onward!!
Kim Sorensen, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

Election Events Highlighted

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| October 3 | State Representative Candidate Forums , 8 local districts, 6-8:30 p.m., Doña Ana County Building |
| October 4 | Doña Ana County Commissioners, Probate Judge, Assessor Candidate Forums , 6-8 p.m., Doña Ana County Building |
| October 4 | LWVGLC Board Meeting, 10-12 a.m., Branigan Library Roadrunner Room |
| October 5 | VOTERS GUIDE distributed in the BULLETIN |
| October 8 | Dinner with a Leader, 5 -7 p.m., Good Samaritan Activity Room, Dr. Jim Peach, Economics Professor Emeritus, NMSU |

October 9 ***Celebrate Democracy in Doña Ana County!*** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Doña Ana County Building

October 9 **EARLY VOTING** – last day to register, first day to vote

October 16 Youth Engagement Committee 3:30 - 5:00 p.m., Branigan Library Board Room

October 23 Public Regulation Commission District 5 **Candidate Forum**, 4:30-5:00 p.m., KRWG

October 25 PRC **Forum Broadcast**, KRWG-TV, 7 p.m.

October 25 LWVGLC Book Club, **The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels by Jon Meacham**

October 30 Public Land Commission and Sheriff **Candidate Forums**, 4 – 5 KRWG studio

November 1 PLC and Sheriff **Forums Broadcast**, KRWG-TV, 7 p.m.

November 6 TUESDAY - **ELECTION DAY**



50TH ANNIVERSARY PRESENTS - EDUCATION FORUM

Three practitioners in the field of early childhood development and three in the field of community engagement in education spoke to a group of interested citizens at a forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters on September 20 at Lynn Community School. All panelists agreed that providing children with enriching experiences as early as infancy affects their lifelong learning capabilities.

The following speakers presented a wealth of information on effective practices that lead to high achievement for all students regardless of their life circumstances: Lori Martinez, Executive Director of Ngage New Mexico; Dr. Betsy Cahill, NMSU Director of Early Childhood Programs and Co-Director of the School for Teacher Preparation, Administration and Leadership; Dr. Maria Artiaga, LCPS Executive Director of Federal Programs; Maria Zuniga, Programs Manager for Children's Reading Alliance; Mary Parr Sanchez, LCPS Community School Liaison; and Sylvia Chavez, Lynn Middle School Community School Administrator.

While advocating for programs that promote early childhood development, none of the panelists called for another year of public schooling pre-kindergarten as a solution to the problem of poor learning outcomes for New Mexico's public schools. However, all stressed the immediacy of the problem in light of this summer's ruling by a state court that "New Mexico's education system violates the state constitution because it fails to provide students with a sufficient public education." This judicial ruling is the result of a "landmark" lawsuit, Yazzie and Martinez v. State of New Mexico.

The panelists described a range of approaches to early childhood development that are some of the programs underway in Las Cruces:

- Engaging and supporting parents and caregivers as first teachers
- Providing books and reading experiences for children from birth onward
- Re-configuring some schools as community schools that engage neighbors and families to support the children in whole-child education

No one program is touted as the solution to the state's low educational achievement, nor does any approach require extremely large financial outlays. But funding educational reform was on the minds of panelists and audience. LWV moderator of the forum, Jane Asche, urged people to include questions about priorities for educational reform and financing to support effective practices in their conversations with candidates for governor and the state legislature this fall. Many audience members advocated for a state constitutional amendment to allow a percentage of the state's permanent fund to be used for additional funding for public schools. This forum on school/community partnerships was one of a series of forums on governmental issues that have been studied by the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces. The

League actively supports and advocates for their positions on these issues. The public forums are part of the organization's commemoration of its 50th anniversary in Las Cruces this year. More information is available on the League's website, www.lwvglc.org.



EDUCATION FORUM PANELISTS



The purpose of this section of the VOTER is to help you vote.

The website for the NM Secretary of State contains a Voter Portal, [http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Voter Information/voter-information-portal.aspx](http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Voter%20Information/voter-information-portal.aspx), that has links to help you

- Register to vote
- Find candidate information
- Get an absentee ballot
- Locate your polling place

You can enter your name and address and print a sample ballot that is identical to the ballot you will have when you vote.

The website for the LWVGLC, <https://www.lwvglc.org/>, has links to lists of candidates for national, state and local elections.

Registration to vote ends OCTOBER 9. Early voting BEGINS OCTOBER 9. The election is NOVEMBER 6.

From the County Clerk's Office: Our Early Voting Locations:

1. [Anthony Elementary School - 600 N. Fourth St Anthony, NM 88021](#)
2. [Delores C Wright Educational Center - 400 E Lisa Dr, Chaparral, NM 88081](#)
3. [Hatch High School - 170 E Herrera Rd, Hatch, NM 87937](#)
4. [Doña Ana Community College: Sunland Park Center - 3365 McNutt Rd. Sunland Park, NM 88063](#)
5. [Doña Ana County Government Center - 845 N. Motel Blvd. Las Cruces, NM 88007](#)
6. [Sonoma Elementary School - 4201 Northrise St. Las Cruces, NM 88011](#)
7. [Thomas Branigan Memorial Library - 200 E Picacho Ave Las Cruces, NM 88001](#)

OBSERVERS POSTS

In this edition of the VOTER are observations of

- City Council, August 20, September 4, September 17
- County Commission, September 11
- South Central Solid Waste, September 20
- LC Utility Advisory Board, September 12
- City Utility Board, September 13

THANKS to MARY ELLEN KNAPP You are reading Mary Ellen's last Observer's Reports of the Las Cruces City Council meetings as a League Observer. She volunteered to be an observer after attending last year's Program Fiesta. She has brought you reports for almost every meeting that occurred since then. We are all grateful to her for her service. Mary Ellen used her Observer's post as a way to get to know her community after recently relocating to Las Cruces.

Thanks also to Susan Schmugge for her efforts to coordinate Observers and also for being an Observer. And thanks to Johnnie Aldrich for ongoing variety in her targeted Observations. Having an observation of the County Commission is a valuable extension of effort.

Observers are always needed. Contact Susan if you are willing to give it a try.

OBSERVER REPORT by Mary Ellen Knapp

**Las Cruces, NM City Council,
August 20, 2018**

Regular Meeting,
Mayor and All Councilors Present

Agenda items of particular interest:

APPROVED – Resolution Authorizing the City to Submit a Grant Application and Approve a Cash Match Commitment for Project Name: Land & Water Conservation Fund – Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program; Granting Agency: U. S. Department of Interior, National Parks Service; Application Submitted by New Mexico State Parks; Grant Request \$750,000; Cash Match Required \$757,706; Total Request Amount \$1,507,765. Funds to be used for the redevelopment of the Apodaca area. The improvements to Apodaca Park, which were approved by the Council on May 4 as part of the Apodaca Blueprint, include removal of the non-functional pool house and pool, adding an aquatic playground restroom facility, picnic areas with shade and tables, a playground and a trail system throughout the park plus landscaping, irrigation, site furnishings, and signage. (6 ayes – 1 no)

APPROVED – Resolution to Engage Negotiations Related to 430 S. Main Street and adjacent properties. Ten years ago John Hoffman, a developer from El Paso, purchased the properties. In 2010 the City of Las Cruces issued two building permits related to a remodel and re-roof permit. The work commenced, but neither permit was completed to the point of receiving a Certificate of Occupancy or Completion, and the permits have expired. The owner has complied with the Municipal Code in securing the property from being a nuisance to the public.

The building and adjoining properties remain incomplete and present a negative image at the southern entrance to Las Cruces' revitalized downtown. Councilors have received numerous complaints about the “eyesore.” Eminent Domain is not an option; therefore, the City desires to negotiate with the owner for acquisition or other appropriate action for 430 S. Main Street and adjoining properties. (6 ayes – 1 absent)

Board Appointments:

APPROVED – The newly established Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee will be composed of thirteen community members. Sharon Thomas, Abraham Sanchez, Michael Ponce, Russ Smith, Roberta K. Gran, LaVonne A. Muniz, and Harvey W. Gordon represent the Planning Commission in their Districts. Heather Watenpaugh represents NMSU, and Angela Roberson represents Dona Ana County. Representing the Policy Review Committee are Mary Ann Hendrickson – Infrastructure/Capital Improvement Plan, George Vescovo – Economic Development, and Jay Sundheimer – Health. John Moscato represents the Building/Development Community. (6 ayes – 1 absent)

OBSERVER REPORT – By Mary Ellen Knapp

Las Cruces, NM City Council
September 4, 2018

Regular Meeting
Mayor and All Councilors Present.

Agenda Item of Particular Interest:

APPROVED – Resolution to Finalize the Selection of the Location of the National Fitness Campaign Outdoor Gym, for which a \$10,000 grant was accepted in February. Total cost of the outdoor gym is \$110,000. Of the 11 locations considered by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, their first choice was Hadley Avenue Recreation Complex, and second choice was East Mesa Recreational Area. There was lengthy discussion of both locations. The Council decided to vote on the Hadley Avenue location at this time since it is shovel ready and can be completed by the end of the year. (7 Ayes)

The East Mesa location requires additional preparation of the site to include lights, drinking water and trees planted. The Mayor requested an estimate of the cost to build a second outdoor gym at the East Mesa location be prepared for consideration.

OBSERVER REPORT By Mary Ellen Knapp
Las Cruces, NM City Council
September 17, 2018

Regular Meeting

Six Councilors present Mayor Miyagishima absent. Mayor pro tem Sorg conducted the meeting.

Agenda Items of Particular Interest:

APPROVED – Resolution establishing the 2020 Census Complete Count Ad-Hoc Committee for Las Cruces. The Complete Count Committee shall be comprised of 2 Councilors and up to 14 additional members, representing a variety of interests within the community, to be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. The committee will advise and assist the City in obtaining the most accurate and complete population count for Census 2020 by increasing the response rate through a focused, structured program. (6 ayes, 1 absent)

APPROVED - Resolution to support the reauthorization of and full funding for the U. S. Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Trump administration proposes cutting the funding almost 90 percent. This resolution calls to permanently reauthorize the fund and allocate full funding to the program that was intended when the fund was established in 1964. The CEO and President of the Green Chamber of Commerce spoke in favor of the resolution. (5 ayes, 1 absent, 1 abstained)

APPROVED – Ordinance amending the Las Cruces Municipal Code 1997, creating a new article II titled Gross Receipts Investment Program (GRIP) within Chapter 7.8 Economic Development. The City is authorized to enter GRIP agreements for eligible projects to provide new jobs, promote the economic growth and to improve the City through new construction and/or the rehabilitation of existing commercial or industrial property.

The City desires to establish standards and procedures for financing, through the refund of gross receipts taxes, the development and construction of city infrastructure necessary to secure the location of new, large-scale retail and targeted commercial businesses within the city. (6 ayes, 1 absent)

OBSERVER REPORT

Johnnie R. Aldrich, Observer

Doña Ana County Commission, 09/11/2018

DAC Government Bldg., Commission Chambers

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

All Commissioners Present

By the time I arrived at this meeting, about 10:30 a.m., the 14 applicants for replacing Scott Krahling as County Clerk had already spoken. At least 20 people responding to the Public Input part of the agenda were still standing in line to put in their 2 minutes' worth in support of one candidate or another. Current Deputy Clerk Lindsey Bachman was the overwhelming choice of these speakers, several of whom were employees of the Clerk's Office.

At almost 1:00 p.m., after Commissioners had spoken and asked several of the applicants for further clarification of their previous statements, 5 applicants were nominated and all were voted down along party lines. We then got a 5-minute break after which Askin, currently a school mental health advocate in the NM Department of Health, was re-nominated with the caveat that she retain Bachman as Deputy Clerk because of her knowledge of and prior experience in the office. A few other items on the agenda were addressed before the lunch break at 1:30 p.m.

What I saw of that day's meeting was heartening as proof that our government leaders can listen to both the public and each other, compromise, and solve problems rapidly when necessary.

OBSERVER REPORT

Johnnie R. Aldrich, Observer

South Central Solid Waste Authority Board Meeting

09/20/2018, Transfer Station Board Room, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

All Board Members Present

Gleaned from Board Member Discussions: The Joint Powers Agreement has been finalized and accepted by state authorities. One major result is that this Board will now meet quarterly (or as needed) rather than monthly.

Almost 500 tons of trash (both garbage and recyclables) are collected and processed DAILY in our county. Once again, recent changes in recycling policy by China, the principal buyer of U.S. recyclables, have wrought havoc nation-wide in the industry.

One change made by the Board in the process here in Doña Ana County is that all clean cardboard is now shipped to Albuquerque to a facility that buys it for \$80.00 per ton. Previously, we paid \$61.00 per ton to Friedman of El Paso to process only this kind of trash. In spite of this gain, the recycling program still operates in the red, primarily because of the opening of facilities to make collection less costly in the county's rural areas and small towns. (For example, a new office will soon open in Anthony for the convenience of southern customers. Furthermore, today's business including authorization for the purpose of purchasing over a million dollars worth of equipment to replace 20-year-old machinery.)

Soon, all residential and commercial customers of the SCSWA will receive a mailing explaining details of the new recycling policy.

OBSERVER REPORT by Susan Schmugge

**Utility Customer Advisory Group (UCAG) Regular Meeting,
September 12, 2018**

All 5 members present

The Group unanimously approved all documents and visual presentations for the Public Outreach planned to review wastewater rates. There will be at least 10 public forums by Group members during the next 3 weeks. Please consult your local newspapers for time and place. Also presented were revised waster rate review slides that explain the need for a raise in rates, the options for how to raise them in 1, 2 or 3 year phases, the changes in residential rate classes and tiers, and comparisons with other municipalities' rates. Respectfully submitted,

OBSERVER'S REPORT by Susan Schmugge

**City of Las Cruces Utilities Board
September 13, 2018**

Vasquez absent, 6 members present

Dr. Garcia, Mr. Ed present

The commission heard updates on current issues: the FY2018-19 budget, UCAG's work on studying wastewater rate raises, current pending construction projects, the Supreme Court Water Case. The LC City council will have water rate raises on its agenda on October 15. The commission approved an assessment of \$1400 per property connecting to the LCU gas line that has been extended into the Talavera subdivision.

TREASURER'S REPORT

24 September 2018

League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces
For 4 October 2018 Board Meeting
Activity since last Board Meeting

Expenses:

Consumer Cellular: \$ 19.02

[League cell phone]

TOTAL: \$19.02

Income: \$62.81 [membership net of PayPal expenses]

24 September 2018 Checkbook Balance: \$7,125.31

Education Fund balance should be \$4,880.58. There is an additional \$105 waiting to be deposited.

DISCUSSION

Currently, all monies in the PayPal account have been transferred to checking and are reflected in the bank balance shown above.

I will be out-of-state from September 25 through October 2.

William Little
Treasurer