

# the VOTER

APRIL 2020  
Volume 51, Issue 11



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## Co-Presidents' Messages

Greetings LWVSNM Members,

What a difference a few days can make in our lives. COVID-19 has turned our world upside-down and requires us to adapt in critical ways. We are feeling a range of emotions, as we deal with the changes and try to support one another. I am walking Caza, our black Labrador, (almost) daily to get some physical activity. Even Joe, my husband, has his pulmonary rehab exercises. Lots of people are finding more time to read, listen to music, or watch movies, and meet with friends and colleagues via web conferencing. That's what we'll also do as the League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico.



*Eileen VanWie*

The LWVSNM will be using the software Zoom for online meetings, and members will receive participant guidelines prior to scheduled meetings. You do not need a zoom account to attend these "Cloud" meetings. The Board will get an invitation and Zoom guidelines for the Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 am meeting several days before the date. (If League members want to attend, please send a request to Kathy and me.) An invitation and Zoom guidelines to the Annual meeting, scheduled for Saturday, April 18 at 9:00 am will be sent to members several days before the date. The meeting will not take the full time we had planned to meet face-to-face. We may have to vote on action items after the Zoom meeting. (We're checking into Survey Monkey, which is easy to use.)

Our League members will need to rethink and brainstorm how we will accomplish our mission (empowering voters and strengthening democracy) this year with social distancing, events cancelling, and businesses closing to decrease virus transmission.

How can we inform and support voters, advocate for mail ballot elections, and collaborate with other organizations to continue civic engagement under new restrictions? What are the questions that need to be discussed so that solutions may be found? We want all voices to be heard. Please give some thought as to how we can make the best of difficult circumstances.

—With warm regards,  
Eileen VanWie



Hello,

As we experienced assorted disruptions to "normal" life, League-related responsibilities and activities did not go according to plan. Just as I was getting in the habit of attending substantial portions of City Council meetings as an observer, I switched over to remote attendance at the most recent regular session and the special work session on the impact of changes associated with COVID-19. The work session detailed many of the efforts to assist individuals and businesses in our community as we try to make our way through these times.

Just before things ground to a halt in Las Cruces, I had an opportunity to attend the three sessions

on suffrage presented by Eileen to the Academy of Learning in Retirement. She did a wonderful job in the persona of Alice Paul — especially conveying some of the details of the conditions under which suffragists were held in jail in 1917, simply for



*Kathy Brook*

—continued next page

## Co-Presidents' Messages (cont.)

assembling to seek the right to vote. I hope at some future time to see the last of the sessions on the ERA. It was canceled as we moved into social distancing.

On the same day I was able to attend the Coffee and Action Committee meeting where we wrote notes of appreciation to our legislators and where I agreed to follow up with the city on the topic of a possible ban of single-use plastic bags. I have not yet pursued that but did learn at the recent city council meeting that this issue will be considered by the Transportation, Sustainability, and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee on which Councilors Abeyta-Stuve, Sorg, and Vazquez are serving.

For future reference, LWV SNM is the beneficiary of a hand-me-down home entertainment karaoke system (which could be used for amplification at a small event). One of the other local Leagues upgraded and passed this one on to us. It is currently at my house. Keep it in mind and let me know if you need it.

While Women's History Month has become lost in the current crisis, County Commissioner Isabella Solis invited some representatives of women's groups to the Commission meeting on March 10 for the reading of a proclamation concerning this annual recognition. (I was on the list, perhaps as a result of the proclamations relating to the League and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.) See page 3.

Please stay safe and let me know if you need help with anything.

—Kathy Brook, Co-President

## Voter Registration Report

To prepare for the very important upcoming General Election of Nov. 3, 2020, the LWVSNM is going to be increasing its efforts to register voters. To ensure that we are successful in this effort, we are planning to work with other groups and existing systems in place to identify venues and set up registrations opportunities in reaching the most eligible unregistered citizens.

Karena and Stewart Oberman and the Doña Ana County Clerk's office have set up the "sign-up genius" system in the last several years. This system has a list of participating VRAs, venues are identified, and the Clerk's office sends a sign-up email to the VRAs willing to work at that place and time. The League has been asked to enlarge our role in this process, which we are happy to do. We will be working more diligently with Karena and others to identify registration opportunities. Many of

—continued on p. 3

## Annual Meeting to be Teleconferenced

The April 18 Annual Meeting is forced to be conducted via teleconference due to COVID-19. See pages 3 and 12 for specific instructions.

Please monitor your e-mail for the packet of materials that will be sent to you in advance, giving you time to review the documents.

We will take action on many items including changes to the League bylaws, policies, procedures and our local program and plan of action for the 2020/21 fiscal year. You will also get a slate of candidates who will fill our Board of Directors.

—continued on p. 3

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL 2020

#### **CANCELLATIONS FOR APRIL**

- Coffee & Action Club
- Immigration Committee
- Youth Engagement Committee
- **NO General Dinner Meeting in April**

**April 2:** 10am, Board Meeting via teleconference;  
**If you plan to attend the Board meeting, notify Eileen VanWie by April 1.**

**April 18:** 9am, Annual Meeting via Zoom

Monitor the LWVSNM web calendar for information on future meetings: [www.lwvsnm.org/](http://www.lwvsnm.org/)

### **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO BOARD:**

**Kathy Brook & Eileen VanWie – Co-Presidents**

**Cindy Murrell – Vice President, Events & Speakers**

**Cindy Murrell & Maryellen Kebbel - Interim**

**Secretaries**

**Erika Graf-Webster – Youth Engagement Director**

**Bob Burn – Treasurer**

**Kim Sorensen – Immediate Past-President**

**Vicki Simons & Dale Yeo – Voter Services Directors**

**Maryellen Kebbel and Laura Harper – Membership Directors**

**Jo Galván Nash – Public Relations Director**

**P.O. Box 15142 • Las Cruces, NM 88004**

**575.524.VOTE (8683)**

**[www.lwvsnm.org](http://www.lwvsnm.org)**

## Women and the League Recognized

The County Commission approved a Proclamation designating March as Women's History Month. Several women, including LWVSNM Co-President Kathy Brook, were present for the recognition. The Proclamation gave credit to the value and contributions that women have made and continue to make. The League was given recognition when County Manager Macias read ... "we remember the valiant women of the vote and honor the brave fighters who won suffrage rights for all women." The proclamation also touted women "who strive to drive change" which includes gender equity.



Co-President Kathy Brook (far left), representing the LWV SNM, was among several women from local organizations, including the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, veterans from the United Military Women of the Southwest, political candidates, and New America School-Las Cruces. The school's principal (second from right) Margarita Porter received the Proclamation from County Commissioner Isabella Solis. The other Commissioners are pictured behind those recognized.

—photo courtesy of Corrie Stone, DAC Public Information

## Annual Meeting (cont.)

Please don't be hesitant about joining the Annual Meeting via the ZOOM software. Here is what to expect:

1. Through your e-mail, you will get an invitation from Eileen VanWie about 15 minutes before the scheduled start time on Saturday, April 18. The email will come about 8:45 am and the meeting will begin at 9:00 am.
2. You will click on the link in that e-mail and follow the directions.
3. You do NOT have to have a Zoom Account, but you will be directed to download a meeting client. *If you want*, you can register for a free Zoom Account at <https://zoom.us/>
4. Computers/laptops need to have a camera and audio capabilities.
5. It is important to be in a quiet room by yourself. (If you have a headset [earphones-mic] the sound will be better. [See more tips on p. 12 on using Zoom.](#)
6. We expect there will be some problem-solving as we begin to use Zoom, especially with large groups. Please be patient.
7. If any member knows they are unable to attend, please let Eileen know by April 17 ([vanwieek@yahoo.com](mailto:vanwieek@yahoo.com)).

## Voter Registration (cont. from p.1)

the League's Voter Registration Agents are on this list already. If you are a VRA, please let me know if you wish to remain on the list or if you have recently been trained, sent me your name so I can add you to the list.

This planning was done before the Coronavirus epidemic. Without knowing what the near future will bring, we will urge people to register to vote online. Those with a current or expired New Mexico state I.D. or driver's license can register or update their registration online with the Secretary of State's Online Voter Registration System: <https://portal.sos.state.nm.us/OVR/WebPages/InstructionsStep1.aspx>, or go to [NMVote.org](http://NMVote.org).

We'll keep LWV members informed as to whether we will be planning any in-person registration efforts.

—Dale Yeo

Voter Services Director



# “Getting to Know Your Local Government” Held for High School Students

The League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico’s Youth Engagement Committee and the Las Cruces Public Schools established an ongoing collaboration named “The Civic Engagement Project” in early 2017. The Doña Ana County Clerk’s office joined the group about two years ago, and together this collaboration team has supported increased civics education in the school system as well as civics-related events, such as the annual “Celebrating Democracy in Doña Ana County”.

In April of 2019, The Civic Engagement Project committed for the next school year to furthering the knowledge among students of local governmental entities and how they work. The LCPS staff developed a set of lessons over the summer about local government entities. The Civic Engagement Project team decided to concentrate on the city government – this aligned with the City Council election held in November 2019.

With the assistance of City Councilor Yvonne Flores, the planning team met with Ms. Flores and Jamey Rickman, who heads the Community Engagement Office for the City of Las Cruces about doing a student event. Ms. Rickman and her staff were enthusiastic about the idea. They presented it to the City Manager, who approved the idea.

The purpose of the event was to get students to come to City Hall, meet the Councilors and meet some city department representatives that provide various services for the city, such as the Fire Department and the Police Department. The agenda included the students meeting the city government staff in the morning, having lunch (provided by the city!) and in the afternoon meeting as teams to address real city problems.

The event on February 21 had approximately 50 students in attendance. They were divided into four teams, each with a mix of students from all the high schools, and each with an LCPS teacher monitor. They were warmly welcomed in City Chambers by Mayor pro-tem Kasandra Gandara.

For the rest of the morning, the four groups rotated through four different presentations done by city staff on Housing, Environmental, Recreational Activities, and Beautification of the City.

The city provided an excellent boxed lunch to all attendees and the students were then directed to the parking lot, where they met with representatives from Public Safety, including Firemen and Policemen, and also saw some of their equipment, such as firetrucks, which were a big hit (see photos below).



*Ten seniors from each of the six local high schools were invited to participate. They were divided into teams and were assigned a mentor.*



*Lisa LaRoche describes the work of the city’s Sustainability Office*

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## Getting to Know Your Local Government (cont.)

The afternoon was devoted to solving real city problems. The four teams each were given the description of a problem, were asked to come up with innovative solutions that the city could use, develop a short PowerPoint presentation of their solutions, and present their solutions to a panel of judges. The city problems that were addressed were: (1) Building housing that is truly affordable and accepted by the surrounding Neighborhood; (2) Mitigation of urban “heat islands” that occur in the inner city area; (3) Aligning available recreational activities with the desires of youths; (4) Beautification of the city – keeping the city clean.

The presentations were impressive – the students had come up with some very interesting and innovative ideas. For example, for problem 4, the students suggested forming a student corps to routinely remove trash on streets and parks. For problem 2, their recommendations included planting grass on flat roof tops to reduce urban heat.

The judging panel, composed of City Councilors Kasandra Gandara and Yvonne Flores, Erika Graf-Webster and Eileen VanWie of the LWVSNM, Irene Para of the County Clerk’s office, and Jamie Baker from the LCPS Administration Office, judged the quality of the solutions presented for each problem. The panel selected the team addressing the “heat island” problem as having come up with the best and most innovative solutions. Initially, the plan was to have the winning team present their solutions at a live City Council meeting. However, the work of all the teams was so impressive, it was decided that each team would present their solutions. (These presentations were planned for the April 6 Council meeting; this is now on hold, due to the coronavirus crisis.)

The initial planning committee, consisting of Jamie Patterson and Josie Miller of LCPS, Erika Graf-Webster of the League, Councilor Flores, and Jamey Rickman and her staff, held a debrief session about the event on March 9. Everyone agreed that the event had been a big success – there was great feedback from the students, as well. Ms. Rickman said the Mayor, the Councilors and the City Manager agreed to offer to make this an annual event. The LCPS staff and the League, through the Civic Engagement Project, who initiated this effort early on are very pleased with its success, and support this becoming an annual event.

— Erika Graf-Webster  
LWVSNM Youth Engagement Dir.



*Student teams presented their solution to a city problem to the Judging Panel consisting of Mayor Pro-Tem Kasandra Gandara, Councilor Yvonne Flores (both hidden on left), LWVSNM’s Erika Graf-Webster and Eileen VanWie, Irene Para of County Clerk’s Office and Jamie Baker from LCPS Administration*

## The 100-Year Minute

We hope you’ve enjoyed these wonderful bits of history each month. We close out this feature by thanking State League Member Susan Haase who wrote these historical perspectives of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.



100 years ago, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution passed and women across the country finally won the right to vote. They’d been fighting for it for over 70 years.

Sometimes when we want change, we want it now and we feel like giving up when it doesn’t come quickly. But think about starting to work for a change 70 years ago. What was even happening in the world back then? 70 years ago, China became a Communist country under Chairman Mao, and RCA began broadcasting color television in the US. That sounds like ancient history. YES, the fight for the Women’s Vote was a LONG fight.



## Judicial Study Committee Update

Three members of the League's Judicial Study Committee, Suzanne Ronneau, Adelaide Jacobsen and Jo Galván Nash, met on March 18 via video conference with Magistrate Judge Pat Casados of Los Alamos. She is the President of the NM Magistrate Judges Association. The interview was conducted as one of the steps in a two-year process by state and local Leagues to study the state's selection of lower court judges.

Judge Casados believes the lower courts serve well as the "People's Courts" for New Mexico, and she does not believe Magistrate Judges need to be attorneys. Many of the 67 Magistrate Judges are ex-police; approximately nine are attorneys. Their jurisdiction is tort, contract, landlord/tenant under \$10,000, felony preliminary hearings, misdemeanors, DWI/DUI and other traffic violations.

In a thorough explanation of qualifications, Judge Casados said Magistrate Judges, elected to four-year terms in partisan elections in the same years as the Governor, are immediately required to attend two weeks of training, which includes two classes on evidence rules. They are assigned a mentor — an experienced Judge — who sits with them in the court until the mentor is satisfied the new judge is able to adequately do the job. The mentor thereafter remains available for follow-up.

After serving on the bench for six months, the new judge must attend an additional week of training, after which there is a "diagnostic" test, which is not pass/fail. More training is offered when funding is available. Judge Casados said there is adequate training and ongoing support for these judges.

Many lower courts don't have the funding or personnel to have specialty services, such as Doña Ana's and Santa Fe's drug court, or with mediation services. The Magistrate Courts are funded through the counties, but also get support from the Supreme Court, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Judicial Education Group at the UNM Law School.

Limitations also include limited supplies, additional staff, including IT personnel, and lack of pretrial services. In addition, very few courts have bailiffs or security. And, there are courts that are housed in singlewide trailers.

Judge Casados requested the League include in the state position that there should be a timeline for appointment of a Magistrate Judge by the Governor.

—Suzanne Ronneau, Chair, and Jo Galvan Nash, Member  
League Judicial Study Committee

## Absentee Voting, 2020

Due to the uncertainty of the situation with the coronavirus and stay-at-home orders, voters may want to vote by absentee ballot in the New Mexico primary election set for Tuesday June 2.

The state League also is urging voters to vote absentee.

The Dona Ana County Clerk's office is closed to walk-in transactions. The steps to vote absentee are:

Obtain an application for an absentee ballot. This can be done three ways; downloading a form from the NM Secretary of State's website ([sos.state.nm.us](https://sos.state.nm.us)), download an application from NMVote.org or phone the County Clerk's office (575-647-7428) and ask for a form to be mailed to you.

1. A ballot will be mailed to you on May 5; fill it out and mail it to the County Clerk's office.
2. The County Clerk's office must receive the request for an absentee ballot no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2020.
3. The completed ballot must be returned to the County Clerk's office by 7:00 p.m. election day. Early voting will be as usual as far as we know. It will begin 28 days prior to the election.

Remember, you must be registered with a major political party in order to vote in a primary election in New Mexico.

### FAQ and ABSENTEE VOTING FOR THE 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION

—Victoria Simons  
Voter Services Director



## OBSERVER REPORTS

### LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Meeting

March 2, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

All councilors and the mayor were present.

**Casa de Peregrinos:** The Council approved unanimously a real estate purchase agreement of the Horse and Hound property on Amador. This purchase allows for expansion of the Community of Hope campus and, in particular, provides increased space for Casa de Peregrinos. Included in the plans are a teaching kitchen, nutrition programs, and space for other agencies to serve the Casa population.

**Public Art Master Plan:** The plan had apparently been a work session topic. At that time councilors had raised assorted questions and suggested some changes to the plan. At this meeting, they noted that the issues had been very well-addressed in the interim by staff. Features of the plan include creation of rosters of artists, with attention given to the diversity of the group, provision for collaboration with a youth advisory board especially when there is a youth focus to the project, and identification of areas that lack public art. The next step will be to address funding requirements.

**UTVs on City Streets:** UTVs are off-highway recreational vehicles that are more substantial in structure than ATVs and commonly feature mirrors, mufflers, brakes, and seat belts. The proposal to allow these vehicles to travel on city streets was approved unanimously. Supporters present at the meeting indicated that this would allow them to travel to their destination for recreational use of the vehicles without having to take a separate vehicle with a trailer – with the potential for vandalism while the UTVs are being driven off-road. Riders (including passengers) under the age of 18 are required to wear helmets and the maximum speed allowed is 45 mph.

**Natural Relief Expansion:** A proposed ordinance was introduced which would make the city the fiscal agent on \$600,000 in Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) funding from the NM Economic Development Department. The city's responsibility includes monitoring the project, including hiring milestones. This business includes a hemp farm in Berino and a manufacturing center and dispensary on Bataan Memorial West.

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### LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Session

March 16, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

All councilors and the mayor were present.

Interim city manager: The contract with David Maestas to serve as interim city manager was approved.

**Transportation, Sustainability, and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee:** This committee formulates recommendations to the City Council. Councilors on this committee are Sorg, Bencomo, and Vazquez and there was discussion about adding additional ex-officio representatives. Staff had recommended representatives of NMDOT; NM Environmental Department or NM Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources; the Green Chamber;

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## OBSERVER REPORTS

—*City Council cont.*

and South Central Regional Transit District or South Central Solid Waste. Councilor Sorg suggested an additional person to represent home builders/developers and Councilor Vazquez suggested someone from an environmental nonprofit and a business member (such as from the solar sector). With these changes, there was unanimous approval. (This group will look at the plastic bag ban.)

**Sole Source Agreement for location data for the transit system:** This agreement provides detailed information on bus locations and on-time performance and the city has worked with the provider since 2013. The agreement was approved.

**City property outside Hatch:** This property was acquired in 2001 for water rights. An irrigation well there has since failed. The Council approved disposing of this unneeded city property.

**Transit grant application:** The Council approved the application for funding from the Federal Transit Administration for a transit maintenance center. The current facility is at capacity and relocation of the facility to Motel Blvd will allow for future park development on Hadley. Included in the facility will be charging stations for the five electric buses that the city is acquiring. The application was approved. The city has the funds from other sources to provide the cash match for the grant.

**Klein Park Conceptual Master Plan:** The modification keeps the basketball court in its current location adjacent to the amphitheater. This change in the plan resulted from the offer of a resident to cover the cost of renovation of the court so that he would be able to use the court for an event in the summer. The offer of the resident frees up funding for other uses. Those who had attended a public meeting on this subject were generally supportive and the plan was approved.

**Solid Waste Rates:** The council tabled the proposal to increase solid waste rates to more closely match the cost of service and improve the financial position of the solid waste enterprise fund. The rationale was to delay any rate increase given the current health and economic crisis.

**Natural Relief Project:** The council approved the LEDA grant discussed at the March 2 meeting.

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### LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Special Work Session on the Impact of the Coronavirus

March 16, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

All councilors and mayor were present.

The work session began with a presentation covering the timeline of developments worldwide with respect to the virus and then moved to the actions being taken by the city with respect to a variety of services. In a number of cases, changes had been made since the slides had been created for the presentation.

The presentation was followed by input from a variety of people representing the Las Cruces Public Schools (Supt. Karen Trujillo), Green Chamber of Commerce (Carrie Hamblen), the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Development Center, Casa de Peregrinos, Community of Hope, Gospel Rescue Mission.





## OBSERVER REPORTS

—City Council cont.

Of particular note:

- The city utilities and El Paso Electric are suspending disconnections for non-payment.
- School Resource Officers are being assigned to patrol.
- Transit fares have been eliminated.
- The library has eliminated late fees and is promoting the use of ebooks through the library.
- Numerous efforts are being made to provide information to the community, including businesses, about resources available. Social media (using English and Spanish) is being used to communicate with those who may not have computers or internet access.
- People were encouraged to use the city tap water rather than buying bottled water.
- The two chambers of commerce are working to make businesses aware of available resources.

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### BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC) • Regular Meeting

March 10, 2020

Observer: Jo Galván Nash

All Commissioners and County Manager Fernando Macias were present.

#### CENSUS 2020

Commissioners were updated from US Census Bureau Specialist Dr. Mercy Alarid who said the census is critically important for three reasons: 1) Power – the census will provide power for local communities; 2) Knowledge – it will generate better data for a community and many non-profit users; 3) Money – the amount of monies that is directed to the states is essential. In New Mexico, the census data provided \$7.8 billion to New Mexico. Dr. Alarid said the data generates about \$3,000 per person, per year for 10 years.

One area of concern is that in 2010, this county had a non-response rate of 28.8%, slightly higher than the state average. The 2020 census will target those areas in Doña Ana County that did not participate 10 years ago.

For the first time ever, people can participate in the census online, by phone, by mail, and through July 31, 2020, in-person. The census is currently online and is ready for you to fill out within just a few minutes.

The county's new census coordinator is Erlinda Portillo; she is the point of contact for those who can offer events and venues where the census can be promoted.

#### COVID-19

Commissioners received an update (as of March 10) from specialists on COVID-19. Their general messages indicated a good sense of coordination among multiple agencies, including the County, Office of Emergency Management, hospitals, and the NM Department of Health (DOH). They outlined their current status with regard to protective equipment and communication. The CDC is the prime source of information and in New Mexico, the NM DOH is the lead agency.

Claudia Alexander of the Southwest Region Emergency Preparedness with DOH reviewed CDC guidelines, COVID-19 symptoms, how it's transmitted, and the lack of a vaccine which is why prevention steps are so critical. Bernadette Gutierrez, Southwest Region Nurse Epidemiologist for DOH, said home containment is a good step and the best tool to combat the virus is education. Twila Anderson, infection preventionist from Memorial Medical Center, added that the best preventions are handwashing often, limiting visitors, staying at home, and getting pneumonia vaccines if you are 60 or older.



## OBSERVER REPORTS

### **SOUTH CENTRAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY BOARD • Emergency Mtg. — via GoToMeeting**

March 20, 2020

Observer: Johnnie R. Aldrich

Board members had to meet with Director Patrick Peck outside its regularly scheduled quarterly meetings in order to act on Resolution 2020-06 because it involved changes in the Authority's budget that had to be presented to the City Council at that group's upcoming budget-setting session.

Sound quality was a problem at times in this online format, so I missed many details about the nature of the changes, but the resolution was approved unanimously in a very few minutes. The entire meeting, which included opening formalities like the Pledge of Allegiance and Acceptance of the Agenda lasted less than 20 minutes. Only County Manager Fernando Macias was absent for the meeting, which was chaired by City Councilor Vasquez.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be on April 20, another GoToMeeting session.

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### **LCPS BOARD OF EDUCATION • Regular Meeting**

March 17, 2020

Observer: Jo Galván Nash

All Board members (Maria Flores attended telephonically) and Superintendent Karen Trujillo were present.

#### **COVID-19 Impact**

Many LCPS employees have been working long hours to assist with Grab-and-Go meals for students who are home due to the three-week closure because of the Coronavirus. Supt. Karen Trujillo said Monday, March 16 was the first day of distribution. There are now 17 distribution sites, with an average of 6,500 meals per day being served.

With regard to travel, LCPS initially had a group of 20+ students in California for an art exhibit trip and another trip for three schools in Washington, DC for a Student Television Conference. All students have returned. On March 16 families were contacted, and many went into quarantine with the entire household and requested food delivery. All LCPS buildings are closed except for the Las Cruces High kitchen which is being used to prepare meals.

The School Board was told that all district employees will be paid during the shutdown, including part-time, temporary and substitutes. Trujillo said the bus contractor (STS) is also paying their bus drivers. All central office staff is on-call and when possible, some are working from home.

Teachers are contacting students at least once per week and digital or online resources are being used. *[Update: All NM schools will not return for the rest of the school year. Online learning is in full force.]*

#### **GO Bond Sale**

The Board approved a resolution to sell General Obligation refunding bonds. Two series of bonds are eligible to be refunded on August 1, 2020. Due to current market disruptions and interest rates being low, the refunding would create a saving of \$2.6 million. Pricing bonds won't occur until mid-April as the district hopes for a good rate.

#### **Technology**

Matt Dawkins, IT Director, provided an update on the district's cyber ransomware attack. More than 8,000 computers are "clean." Many old computers have been disposed and new equipment also has been ordered for classrooms. The implementation of a new firewall also is nearly complete. The next phase of upgrading the district's technology infrastructure and fiber, is underway.

# Treasurer's Report

Reported by Bob Burn, Treasurer

**DRAFT MARCH 2020**

*Pending Board Approval*

Date	Description	Deposit/Credit	Payment/Debit	Balance
	Citizen's Bank Balance		\$	5,351.18
	Outstanding Payments/Debts Previous Months			
	LVWUS 83 Full Members (x\$32)+17 Household(x\$16)			
1-Mar	Ck 1031 KW Sound		\$ 201.21	\$ (201.21)
1-Mar	Immigration Study Donations	\$ 625.00		\$ 625.00
1-Mar	Ck 1034 ASAP LWVSNM Banners		\$ 103.98	\$ (103.98)
4-Mar	Sue Cain for Youth Engagement	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
9-Mar	LWV Dinner	\$ 330.00		\$ 330.00
	Anonymous LWV Dinner			
9-Mar	Contributions	\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
9-Mar	Member Donation	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00
12-Mar	Ck 1036 Consumer Cellular		\$ 19.06	\$ (19.06)
23-Mar	Consumer Cellullar New Cell Phone		\$ 22.50	\$ (22.50)
	Victoria Simons Cell Phone			
23-Mar	Contribution	\$ 22.50		\$ 22.50

<b>Citizens's Bank Balance (Actual)</b>	\$ 1,552.50	\$ 346.75	\$ 6,556.93
<b>Diversity Fund</b>	\$ 1,000.00		
<b>Immigration Study Donation Fund</b>	\$ 625.00		
<b>Youth Engagement</b>	\$ 500.00		
<b>Payments/Checks Not Cleared</b>			\$ 6,556.93
<b>Future Payments/Debits Outstanding</b>		\$ 330.00	
<b>Account Balance after Debit Payment</b>			\$ 6,226.93



## Zoom Cloud Meetings: Participant Guide

### **Getting Started:**

You do not have to have a Zoom account to attend a Zoom meeting or interview. You will be prompted to download the software, once you have clicked on the link that you have been provided. You may also wish to create an account, but that is not required to participate in a Zoom meeting.

Please see the System Requirements at the following URL to ensure that you are ready to go:  
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-Requirements-for-PC-and-Mac>

You will need a computer or device with a webcam and microphone to participate. If you do not want an account, just participate by clicking on the link that Eileen VanWie sent you via an email invitation.

**Step 1:** Click on the link provided in the email.

**Step 2:** Download the Zoom Desktop Client. Simply follow the prompts to download the correct Zoom desktop client for your computer and operating system.

**Step 3:** Your Zoom Desktop Client will download. You will then need to install the client. Note that you may also download clients for IOS and Android devices.

**Step 4:** Once you have downloaded the desktop client, you can now join the meeting. You may have to click on the link again in the email to connect to the meeting, once you have installed the client. The Zoom desktop icon looks like the one below.



<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>

### **Zoom User Tips**

Here are some tips to create a good experience and ensure a quality meeting.

1. Obtain a high-quality web camera if you are using a desktop. For laptops, if your computer is less than 3 years old, the built-in camera (if it has one) is adequate.
2. Obtain a computer headset with microphone. This will greatly reduce the chance for feedback and improve your voice quality for those who are communicating with you on the other side. Headsets that connect via USB are the best choice. They range in price from \$20 - \$100.
3. When possible, connect to the Internet with a physical cable connection, not just Wi-Fi; this gives greater speed and service.
4. A laptop or desktop is preferred over a Smartphone or tablet. If you use a Smartphone, also use earbuds or a headset.
5. Don't have several software programs running while using Zoom. Close all unnecessary applications during your call.
6. Pay attention to your background; don't have too much light behind you.
7. Avoid moving around; too much movement can cause the video to pixelate and degrade.

Adapted from The University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. Retrieved 3-19-2020 from <https://www.utc.edu/walker-center-teaching-learning/pdfs/zoom-participant-guide.pdf>

## Candidate Books for LWVSNM Book Club – April 2020

*The Book Club is in hiatus until further notice*

Status	Book
<b>Books Selected for Future Meetings</b>	
<b>TBD</b>	<p><b>Blowout: Corrupted Democracy, Rogue State Russia, and the Richest, Most Destructive Industry on Earth</b> by Rachel Maddow</p> <p>Big Oil and Gas versus democracy - winner take all. With her trademark black humor, Maddow takes us on a switchback journey around the globe, revealing the greed and incompetence of Big Oil and Gas along the way, and drawing a surprising conclusion about how and why the Russian government hacked the 2016 US election. She deftly shows how Russia's rich reserves of crude have, paradoxically, stunted its growth, forcing Putin to maintain his power by spreading Russia's rot into its rivals, its neighbors, the West's most important alliances, and the United States.</p>
<b>TBD</b>	<p><b>The Education of an Idealist: A Memoir</b> by Samantha Power</p> <p>Pulitzer Prize winner Samantha Power, has been heralded by President Barack Obama as one of America's "foremost thinkers on foreign policy." In her memoir, Power offers an urgent response to the question "What can one person do?". Humorous and deeply honest, <i>The Education of an Idealist</i> lays bare the searing battles and defining moments of her life and shows how she juggled the demands of a 24/7 national security job with the challenge of raising two young children. Along the way, she illuminates the intricacies of politics and geopolitics.</p>
<b>Candidate Books for Future Selection</b>	
Date in left column is the date on which the book was added to this list	
<b>1-29-20</b>	<p><b>Why We're Polarized</b> by Ezra Klein</p> <p>America's political system isn't broken. The truth is scarier: it's working exactly as designed. In this book, journalist Ezra Klein reveals how that system is polarizing us—and how we are polarizing it—with disastrous results. Klein reveals the structural and psychological forces behind America's descent into division and dysfunction. Neither a polemic nor a lament, this book offers a clear framework for understanding everything from Trump's rise to the Democratic Party's leftward shift to the politicization of everyday culture.</p>
<b>1-5-20</b>	<p><b>Trump and His Generals: The Cost of Chaos</b> by Peter Bergen</p> <p>From one of America's preeminent national security journalists, an explosive, news-breaking account of Donald Trump's collision with the American national security establishment, and with the world. From Iraq and Afghanistan to Syria and Iran, from Russia and China to North Korea and Islamist terrorism, <i>Trump and His Generals</i> is a brilliant reckoning with an American ship of state navigating a roiling sea of threats without a well-functioning rudder. Lucid and gripping, it brings urgently needed clarity to issues that affect the fate of us all.</p>
<b>12-30-19</b>	<p><b>Crossfire Hurricane: Inside Donald Trump's War on the FBI</b> by Josh Campbell</p> <p>From an FBI insider, a riveting, fly-on-the-wall account of the historic investigation into the Trump campaign's ties to Russia and the president's unprecedented attacks on the bureau - and a passionate defense of the men and women who work every day to uphold democratic institutions and the rule of law.</p>
<b>11-30-19</b>	<p><b>Tough Love: My Story of the Things Worth Fighting For</b> by Susan Rice</p> <p>Recalling pivotal moments from her dynamic career on the front lines of American diplomacy and foreign policy, Susan E. Rice—National Security Advisor to President Barack Obama and US Ambassador to the United Nations—reveals her surprising story with unflinching candor. Mother, wife, scholar, diplomat, and fierce champion of American interests and values, Susan Rice powerfully connects the personal and the professional.</p>
<b>10-27-19</b>	<p><b>Waste (Resources)</b> by Kate O'Neill</p> <p>Waste is one of the planet's last great resource frontiers. In this unique book, Kate O'Neill traces the emergence of the global political economy of wastes over the past two decades. She explains how the emergence of waste governance initiatives and mechanisms can help us deal with both the risks and the opportunities associated with the hundreds of millions – possibly billions – of tons of waste we generate each year.</p>