

the VOTER

MAY 2020
Volume 52, Issue 1



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This month's issue begins the 52nd volume of The Voter — the monthly newsletter by the League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico. What an achievement! We open the new fiscal year with messages from our Co-Presidents, Kathy Brook and Eileen VanWie. Welcome new members!

Co-Presidents' Messages

Hello,

As you can see elsewhere in the Voter, much of my time in the past month has been devoted to observing numerous city council meetings (regular and special meetings as well as work sessions). These have all been conducted via Zoom and many have focused on the city's efforts to grapple with issues related to the pandemic and related economic issues.



Kathy Brook

Considerable time has been spent in trying to provide assistance to vulnerable populations within the city but the city's ability to address current and future needs is clearly limited. Attention has also been given to using multiple communication channels to inform citizens and small businesses. To date, much of the assistance has come from the Telshor Fund, created from the revenues that the city earns on the lease of the Memorial Medical Center property.

There have been some glitches in the operation of Zoom by the council but, in general, the meetings seem to have been successful. There are mechanisms for public input but I don't think I have seen any since the councilors began attending the meetings remotely.

As many of you are aware, the League has also been using Zoom for board and committee meetings,

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May's Virtual Meeting Features Workforce Development Leader

The President and CEO of The Bridge of Southern New Mexico, Tracey Bryan, will be the LWVSNM's May speaker, via a Zoom teleconference. Watch for an email that invites you to the meeting, and **log on by 3:50 pm on Monday, May 11. The meeting begins at 4:00 p.m.**

Tracey leads this vital non-profit organization that brings together Doña Ana County's business, education, economic development and government communities together to support two things: increases in high school and college completion rates and aligning systems to support the skilled and ready workforce needed for strong workforce talent pipelines to spur economic growth. The Bridge has emerged as one of New Mexico's most successful collective impact initiatives, creating the state's first-ever workforce development plan aligned to economic development targets and is now working with a broader set of partners to implement their plan.



Tracey Bryan

Tracey holds leadership positions with New Mexico First, Ngage New Mexico, Arrowhead Investors Advisory Network, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Business and Community Advisory Council and chairs the New Mexico State Workforce Board.

The Bridge of Southern New Mexico, with its impressive Board of Directors, is "Leading change that changes the future." See their website!

Co-Presidents' Messages (cont.)

as well as our annual meeting. These meetings seem to have been reasonably successful for those participating – aside from some challenges getting into Zoom. My concern is that we may have members who wanted to attend annual meeting, for example, but who were put off by the technological challenges. Please let me know if that was the case or if you have suggestions for improving our use of technology. (kathybrook@comcast.net or 575-644-8296)

Clearly the League can play an important role as we work through the current health and economic challenges, the latter of which are magnified in New Mexico by the crash in oil prices. LWVNM, as you may be aware, filed an amicus brief in support of a mail-in ballot for the primary election in June. As that effort did not succeed, please consider applying for an absentee ballot and encourage your friends and relatives in the state to do the same. I've only voted absentee once in my life – nearly 50 years ago in the California primary – but we are fortunate to have a relatively simple system in NM and I plan to take advantage of it.

Best wishes to all of you,
Kathy Brook, Co-President



Greetings LWVSNM Members,

Every day our world seems to change drastically with the coronavirus in charge of both devastating and strengthening results. The health and economic outcomes are disturbing and bring front and center the inequities in our government, society, and world. Since health-care is not universally available in the United States, it's not surprising that poor people would have more underlying health conditions making them more susceptible to the virus. Health care workers have been willing to work with influenza patients in spite of the risks involved. Women have a disproportionate number of unfair low paying jobs and are probably more impacted than men by the layoffs and furloughs from jobs. School work at home is made more difficult for some students who do not have access to the Internet. This lack of infrastructure in parts of our State inhibits ability to communicate and obtain resources especially for low-income families.



Eileen VanWie

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League's Program & Action for 2020/21

The following priorities were approved at the Annual Business Meeting on April 18, 2020:

- Census Complete Count
- Voter Guide/VOTE411
- Youth Engagement
- Immigration
- Education
- Affordable Housing
- Forum on voter suppression/misinformation/media literacy

There are no new local study items planned. Read the meeting's draft minutes - pages 7-12.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CANCELLATIONS CONTINUE UNTIL NOTIFIED:

- Coffee & Action Club
- Immigration Committee
- Youth Engagement Committee

MAY 2020

May 11: Regular Meeting, 4 pm; Speaker - Tracey Bryan of The Bridge of SNM; **Log-in to Zoom by 3:50 pm**

JUNE 2020

June 6: New Member Orientation, 10 am, Zoom

Monitor the LWVSNM web calendar for information on future meetings: www.lwvsnm.org/

2020/21 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO BOARD:

Eileen VanWie & Kathy Brook – Co-Presidents
OPEN – Vice President

Bonnie Votaw – Secretary

Sadie Valverde – Treasurer

Kim Sorensen – Immediate Past President

Maryellen Keibel & Laura Harper – Membership Directors

Erika Graf-Webster – Youth Engagement Director

Dale Yeo, Helen Zagona & Lizz Taylor – Voter Services Directors

Jo Galván Nash – Public Relations Director

Sharon Thomas (chair) & Judith LaPointe – Nominating Committee

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Co-President's Message (cont.)

While the whole economy has come to a halt, some businesses are benefiting, and others are disappearing. In families where there is domestic abuse, the problem has no doubt been exacerbated with "stay at home" requirements. Some families are finding dinner hour more enjoyable with no sports activities or meetings scheduled away from home.

Candidates running for elected office are figuring out new ways to campaign in this time of physical distancing. We as a League need to figure out how we will best support access to fair and safe voting for the primary, as well as the general election. How will we let voters know the options and communicate with them in ways that give confidence, trust, and commitment to actually vote?

The New Mexico Supreme Court can only interpret law, not change it. Since the Legislature would need to develop a vote-by-mail provision, the Court did the next best thing by having the Secretary of State and County Clerks send out applications for absentee ballots for the primary election to all registered voters with a major party affiliation. We are lucky in New Mexico to have early voting and voting in-person will still be available in selected locations. Please send ideas about how the League can continue to empower voters and strengthen democracy during the pandemic.

Our Annual Meeting via Zoom video conferencing on Saturday, April 18 was productive, and it was fun to see members as we discussed the business established on the agenda. Thanks go out to attendees for staying with the event through completion. (If you haven't participated in a Zoom conference and would like support in accessing it, let me know and we can arrange to get it set up. Once you get set up, it's pretty easy to use. It's a valuable way for us to stay connected during the pandemic.)

Important action items at the Annual Meeting were the "Directions to the Board from the Members." The following recommendations were offered:

- Do an analysis of all costs to run the League on a per member basis. This will help develop next year's budget.
- Develop a diversity plan.
- Hold a unit meeting on diversity prior to starting the plan.

- Advocate for vote-by-mail.
- Continue to focus on increasing diversity in the organization and continue to partner with PFLAG, NAACP, and other nonpartisan organizations in accomplishing our mission of educating voters and expanding access to voting.
- Discuss workforce changes (4 workforce groups) in the State under the Cabinet Secretary of Workforce Solutions.

The Directions provide meaningful guidance for steps forward in 2020. Thanks!

I apologize for omitting an important event in the part of the President's annual report document that I wrote and was in the Annual Meeting packet of information. I have added it to my copy of the report and am adding it here, as well. On February 21, the LWVSNM in collaboration with the Las Cruces Public Schools sponsored a "Know Your Local Government" event at Las Cruces City Hall. After students in six high schools had studied local government in their schools, each school sent ten students to City Hall to hear City staff share four real problems (1. Housing, 2. Environmental, 3. Recreational, and 4. Beautification of the City).

After rotating through the presentations, students were randomly assigned as a team to design a plan to solve one of the real problems. The teams presented solutions to judges and the audience. The "winning" team would present the solution at a regular City Council meeting. The teams performed so well; the plan became that all would present their solutions. This collaborative project was a successful real-world experience for everyone involved. The City wants it to happen on an annual basis.

With warm regards,
Eileen VanWie



REMINDER

Have you paid your 2020/2021 dues yet? May is the month to do that. Read about the new way to pay your annual membership dues on page 6.

One of the highlights of the 2020 Annual Business Meeting was the election of new and returning Board Members. All were unanimously approved. Several members have also been appointed as directors. The League thanks members of the Nominating Committee for their work on developing such an outstanding slate.

CO-PRESIDENTS:

Eileen VanWie and **Kathy Brook** continue their terms in the leadership roles.
 [Terms expire in 2021]



Eileen



Kathy

VICE PRESIDENT:

The seat remains open. If interested, please contact Eileen or Kathy.

SECRETARY:

Bonnie Votaw is a long-time League member has been elected as the new Secretary. [Term: May 2020-2022]



Bonnie

TREASURER:

Sadie Valverde is also a long-time member and was appointed as Treasurer.
 [Term: May 2020-2022]



Sadie

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Kim Sorensen, president from 2017 to 2019, serves a vital advisory role.
 [Term: May 2019-2021]



Kim

DIRECTORS OF VOTER SERVICES:

Dale Yeo was re-elected to another stint leading the voter services efforts.
 [Term: May '20-22]



Dale

Helen Zagona was elected as a Director and will be of great assistance in the work ahead. [Term: May 2020-2022]



Helen

Lizz Taylor was appointed to the committee as a third member of this busy team. [Term: 2020-2022]



Lizz

DIRECTORS OF MEMBERSHIP:

Maryellen Kebbel was re-appointed for another term on the membership development Committee. [Term: May 2020-2021]



Maryellen

Laura Harper also was re-appointed for a second year on the membership committee. [Term: May 2020-2021]

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT:

Erika Graf-Webster continues her term as director of Youth Engagement, a Very busy position. She will continue her work with local school districts.
 [Term: May 2020-21]



Erika

Board (cont.)

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Jo Galván Nash was re-appointed for another year to continue her work in public relations. [Term: May 2020-2021]



Jo

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Sharon Thomas and **Judith LaPointe** were re-elected as Chairwoman and Committee member, respectively, for the Nominating Committee. [Terms: May 2020-2022]



Sharon



Judith



Contact: Janet Blair • 505-259-0203 • April 28, 2020

NEWS RELEASE

Vote411, the League of Women Voters of New Mexico New Online Voter Guide, is Now Live

For the first time, the League of Women Voters of New Mexico is providing an online primary Election Voter Guide. The guide, Vote411.org, will cover the whole state - it's easy to use and free. In addition to the online guide, the *Los Alamos Daily Post* has recently published a local Voter Guide, and the *Santa Fe New Mexican* will publish on May 3.

The NM Secretary of State is going to mail absentee ballot requests to all voters registered with a major party in the state. It is very important that the application be mailed back immediately in order for voters to receive the actual ballot.

"The June 2 primary election in New Mexico can all be handled from home. Apply for your absentee ballot, use Vote411.org to find out about your candidates and election issues and vote from home," said NM League President Hannah Burling.

This is how it works: Go online at Vote411.org. Enter your address to find what is on your ballot, information on candidates and where they stand on issues. The online guide will feature photos of each candidate who responded and their answers to League questions on their qualifications and issues.

"The League is offering this as a free public service. It is user-friendly for voters, and is easy for candidates to use, offering them more flexibility when they present information to potential supporters," said League Voter Services Chair Diane Goldfarb.

May 5 is the last day to register to vote or to update your registration. Only voters registered as Democrats, Libertarians or Republicans are eligible to vote in the June 2 primary election. An absentee ballot application will be automatically mailed to them, but voters can submit an absentee ballot application online now at NMVOTE.org.

May 5 is the first day County Clerks can mail absentee ballots to eligible New Mexico voters. Please mail your request, and then your ballot, back to the Secretary of State right away.

VOTE 411

Find personalized voting, ballot
and polling place information

The LWVSNM Voter Services Committee has been hard at work, contacting the local candidates and uploading information to the state VOTE411 site. (Read the LWVNM news release on this page.) Take a look at all the information that is now available. Plus, you can request an absentee voter application: www.vote411.org

A great feature is a list of all the New Mexico races. [Click here and you can read the candidates' answers to the questions the local and state League presented to them.](#)

Thanks to local League members Dale Yeo, Mina Kelley, Charlotte Lipson and Helen Zagona and for their incredible work on getting the local information added to the site. (Plus, thank you Lizz Taylor for assisting Dale with the [Who's Who Guide, also online.](#))

Orientation Set for New Members

An Orientation Meeting for new League members will be held Saturday, June 6, 2020 from 10:00-11:30 am via ZOOM. The meeting is open to all members who want to know about the many volunteer opportunities in our organization. Please register with Maryellen Kebbel - maryellen.kebbel@gmail.com or call at 575-528-9891. We will send you info prior to the meeting regarding ZOOM conferencing.

Membership Renewal Time

April through May is dues renewal time for LWV members. And, this year, there are two ways to renew:

To Register Online

1. Open your favorite internet browser (Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge)
2. In the URL bar at the top of the screen, type: lwvsnm.org
3. In the blue main menu bar at the top right of the screen, hover your mouse over "Members." A dropdown menu should appear.
4. Click on "Join" in the dropdown menu.
5. At the top of the page, select "new member" if you are a new member. If you are renewing your membership, select "renew."
6. Select your membership type; a full year's membership is \$65 per person, but only half that amount for a second household member.
7. Fill out all of the information boxes that appear. (Amount Due, Name, etc.)
8. Click the red "Submit" button at the bottom of the page.

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9. A window will open asking you to pay for the membership (except for students as there is no cost - skip to number 11.)
10. Choose to either donate with PayPal or a credit/debit card
11. You are now a member! Now you need to set up a username and password if you haven't already. Click the text "Click here to register" if don't have an account for the website.
12. Type in a username, set your password, and email. (Write down your username and password for safekeeping at home.)
13. Finally, click the "Register" button
14. Your account will need to be approved by a current LWV board member. Once your account is approved, you will be able to access the membership page.

To Register by Sending a Check

Send a check payable to LWVSNM for \$65.00 or \$32.50 for second household member, and mail to:

LWVSNM
P.O. Box 15142
Las Cruces, NM 88004

Please include your current contact info including mailing address, best phone number and email address so that you can access our member directory online!

Students 16 years and older are free but are asked to fill out the membership online and include your contact information and which school you attend.

An Important Note: if you choose to register online, please consider making an additional donation of \$5.00 to help the League defray the charge that PayPal imposes on its service. And remember, additional donations are tax deductible now that we are a 501(c)(3) organization. Thanks for your continued support.

—Maryellen Kebbel and Laura Harper
Membership Directors

No need to be intimidated – Information about Zoom Cloud Meetings is repeated in the Voter this month on page 19. Take a look or contact a Board member for assistance on how to use Zoom.

Annual Business Meeting **DRAFT** Minutes • April 18, 2020

9:00 a.m. Via Zoom teleconference

[Highlighted items indicate suggested action. Underlining indicates official action.]

In attendance electronically: Eileen VanWie and Kathy Brook, co-presidents; Cindy Murrell, vice president and interim secretary; William and Christina Little; Vicki Simons and Dale Yeo, voter services co-director; Maryellen Kebbel, membership director and interim secretary; Erika Graf-Webster, youth engagement director; Sadie Valverde; Rorie Measure; Sharon Thomas, nominations chairwoman; Jo Galván Nash, public relations director, Lizz Taylor; Helen Zagona; Marjorie Burr; Johnny Aldrich (joined at 10:17 am); Elisa Sanchez (joined at 11:10 am).

The annual meeting began at 9:20 a.m.

A. Welcome, Introductions, Zoom Orientation, Directory Information

Eileen VanWie, co-president, welcomed everyone. She oriented everyone to the packet of materials and the logistics of Zoom. She presented an electronic poll as to “what is the one thing that brought you to the League.” Highest response (50%) was for civic engagement, followed by voter rights, address laws/policies and study politics.

She and Kathy Brook will facilitate the meeting.

B. Call to Order, Roll Calls, and Establishment of Quorum

Maryellen Kebbel took Roll Call, at that time there were 16 members present. Eileen established that a quorum was present. Everyone proceeded to introduce his or herself, briefly stating what had brought them to the league.

C. Meeting Orientation

- Eileen reviewed the business meeting rules.
- Erika Graf-Webster volunteered to proofread today’s minutes taken by Jo Galván Nash and Maryellen Kebbel.
- William Little is the parliamentarian, Kathy and Eileen are the time prompters, and Dale Yeo is the vote counter for today’s meeting.

D. Changes to the agenda

No changes were made.

E.1. Review of Bylaws Committee Report

Eileen indicated the Board had a workshop last August with Nancy Barnes-Smith who provided recommendations on how to revise bylaws, policies and procedures. The revisions made to the Bylaws were reviewed. At the end of Article II, Eileen explained the statement regarding limited amount of lobbying allowed. There was a short discussion regarding the amount of lobbying allowed both in time and financially; the amount of actual dollars spent is very minimal – the LWVSNM has chosen to track lobbying via the cost expended; and the difference between advocacy versus lobbying was explained.

E.2. Approval of Changes to Bylaws

In Article II, Section 2-Policy, Sharon Thomas suggested a grammatical improvement by **changing “shall be attempting to influence” to “shall attempt to influence.”**

Annual Business Meeting • Draft Minutes Cont.

In Article IV, Section 5-Meetings, it was discussed whether one week's notice is a fair amount of time. Eileen suggested that if the time appears to be too long, it can be amended next year. It was noted that Section 5 does not specify anything about making changes to the agenda within a certain time period. Language could be added in the future as long as changes do not restrict making agenda changes, as needed.

In Article IV, Section 7-Conflict of Interest and Loyalties, there was discussion as to whether a conflict of interest statement should be stated/addressed at each board meeting. It was noted that LWVSNM is not bound by NM's Open Meetings Act, however, Jo recommended that the Board create a procedure that would address this; a procedural statement indicating if there is any conflict of interest concerning a member with regard to matters that would be discussed in a meeting, it should be declared at the beginning of each board/regular meeting.

There was discussion on Article V, Section 8-Director of Youth Engagement, as to whether the director should be elected for two years or appointed annually as needed, and that by adding it to the bylaws could mean less flexibility in the future. A reason given for not having an elected Board position for the Director of Youth Engagement was that other directors may be needed at specific times, such as a Director of Diversity. It was said this position is an essential role for the League's focus on youth engagement and would institutionalize it for the future. Jo moved to separate the vote on the youth engagement director section from the rest of bylaws. Sadie Valverde seconded. The majority voted in approval and the motion was approved.

There was no discussion on Article XIII, Sections 1- meetings. For Section 2-program planning meetings, it was suggested that another way is needed to give input outside of the program planning meeting itself.

Jo moved to accept the bylaws (without Article V, Section 8). The motion was seconded by Vicki Simons. The motion was approved. A Motion was made by Erika to approve the addition of director of youth engagement to the bylaws (Article V, Section 8). The motion was seconded by Cindy Murrell. The motion was approved.

F. Approval of 2019 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Dale moved to accept the minutes and Jo seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Johnnie Aldrich joined the meeting.

G. Treasurer's Report

Kathy reviewed the report and mentioned there was a \$330 payment pending at the time the report was submitted, but it has since been processed; and, in April, the only transactions were deposits of \$245 which are dues for the coming year. Therefore, the balance of today's report is slightly higher. Jo moved approval of the report and Maryellen seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Jo added a thank you to Bob Burns for his service as Treasurer.

H. Reports from Co-President's

There was no discussion.

I. Acknowledgements.

Eileen and Kathy thanked the following individuals: • Sharon, Kim Sorensen and Judith LaPointe for the work of the nominating committee; • Dr. Fred Martino of KRWG Public Media as great supporter for the

Annual Business Meeting • Draft Minutes Cont.

various candidate forums that were co-hosted by LWVSNM, KRWG, PFLAG and NAACP; • Amanda Lopez Askin and Lindsey Bachman for their exemplary government work as County Clerk and Deputy County Clerk, respectively, and for their involvement as League members; • Rep. Joanne Ferrary, who sponsored a Proclamation to the NM House on Feb. 6, 2020 proclaiming the 100th Anniversary of the LWV and the 100th anniversary of the suffrage movement; • current League officers in promoting our work as a League; • Vicki and Dale Yeo for work on the Voter Services activities; • Jo and Dale for work on the revamped website; • Jo for publicity and The Voter; • Cindy for with coordinating great programs all year; • Maryellen and Laura Harper who worked hard on membership; • Erika with the projects by the Youth Engagement Committee, enticing younger people to get involved; • Bob Burn for his work as Treasurer this year; • Mary Martinez White for serving on the budget committee. • Cindy also thanked Kathy for her work on the 501(c)3 status and Eileen on her leadership on the 100th year celebrations.

J. Annual Business Meeting Action Items

J.1. Adoption of Nonpartisan Policy

Dale made a motion to approve Policy I-nonpartisan policy, and Jo seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

J.2. Adoption of Policies

Policies two, three, and four are new. Jo moved approval and it was seconded by Maryellen. In policy IV-Vetting Members Who Mentor or Work with Vulnerable Groups, Rorie Measure said the school district has a protocol for individuals spending time with students; Erika said the Youth Engagement Project had an agreement with the LCPS district. Jo said that an agreement can be approved by the Superintendent, but it must be done annually. There was further discussion about whether “vetting” is the appropriate term to use. Lizz Taylor suggested that a lawyer/legal expert review the verbiage. Cindy said further review is needed before approval. William Little offered the suggestion that this discussion could be tabled if so moved. Jo amended her motion to set aside policy IV from the existing set of policies until further discussion is held. Cindy seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Motion made and seconded to approve policies I, II, and III. Vote passed.

J.2.a. Discussion of Procedures Document

Kathy stated that the proposed League procedures are presented as a work in progress.

Johnnie Aldrich said others need to be aware of possible hacking via PayPal, which is addressed under IV-Membership Dues. Cindy said there is a process to verify authorization. Checks are acceptable to make payments to the League.

Rorie asked whether absentee voting will be an issue for League; it will be. Kathy said she has not heard from Legislators or the Governor on whether they will address that issue before the Primary. If other League members have further suggestions on proposed procedures, contact one of the co-presidents. William stated that no vote is needed for procedures, but that the group could provide feedback.

J.3. Financial

J.3.a. Approval of the 2020/2021 budget

Kathy highlighted a few items in the proposed budget: the budget structure has changed since we are now 501c3, for example, no more separate education fund budget which is now all part of the operating fund; there's a new line item for diversity; a big part of our dues go to the state and national organization. Other items of note: national convention is expected to be in virtual format so there will be savings on that proposed expense.

Elisa Sanchez joined the meeting

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The line item for suffrage celebration will be for activities in August 2020. For the Insurance, there are two types possible: Liability insurance (as with Good Samaritan's) and directors/officers' insurance. The Budget Committee recommended the budget, as presented. Cindy Murrell seconded that recommendation. Jo then moved that it be amended to increase the insurance amount by \$500 and reduce the national convention expense by the same amount. Eileen said liability insurance is estimated at \$800 and it is needed. The motion was approved.

The recommended 2020/21 budget, as amended, was then approved unanimously.

J.3.b. Approval of Annual membership Dues.

It was recommended that the annual dues remain at \$65 per year, per member. Maryellen made a motion to approve the dues and it was seconded by Johnnie.

Several members said the League should consider raising the amount to a suggested level of \$70.

Maryellen and Johnnie agreed to a friendly amendment to the motion. Discussion continued as to whether this should occur without first informing the membership. Cindy suggested the League could instead, ask for donations. Erika suggested an analysis be done on costs of League activities on a per-member basis to determine if a dues increase is warranted. The motion to increase the dues failed.

J.4. Proposed Program for Study and Action 2020/21

J.4.a. Review of Program Planning Priorities

It was noted there will be no new local studies.

J.4.b. Adoption of Recommended Program for Study and Action

The Committee has recommended adoption. Sadie seconded that recommendation. Erika made a motion to amend the study entitled "Case study community meeting (Youth Engagement)" be renamed as "Youth Engagement." Sharon seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The amended Program for Study and Action was then adopted.

J.5. Adoption of Current Statement of Positions

Jo made a motion to approve the positions and Erika seconded the motion. Kathy stated that previously approved County Government Position and Elections Procedures statement were not combined in the LWVSNM directory, perhaps by mistake; however, they are in the minutes. After a discussion, Jo called for the question which requires members to vote on whether to cease further discussion. The action was approved. The original motion stands and the current statement of positions as in the directory were approved. However, it was noted that a future review needs to be made about the County Government and Election Procedures positions.

J.6. Report of Nominating Committee

Sharon Thomas, chairwoman of the nominating committee, offered a slate from the Committee for consideration.

J.6.a Two-year terms (2020-2022)

Sharon announced the nominees:

- Vice President – open;
- Secretary – Bonnie Votaw;
- Voter Services Co-Directors – Dale Yeo and Helen Zagona;

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J.6.b. One-year Terms (2020-2021)

The nominating Committee recommends the following:

- Nominating Committee Chairwoman – Sharon Thomas
- Nominating Committee Member – Judith LaPointe

J.6.c. Other Board Members

The Board will also have the following individuals continue in their roles: Eileen VanWie and Kathy Brooks, Co-Presidents, Maryellen and Laura Harper as Co-Membership Services Directors.

J.7. Nominations from the Floor

No one volunteered to be considered for the position of vice president. For other nominations, Erika nominated Lizz Taylor from the floor to be the third Voter Services Director. It was seconded by Sadie. It was approved.

J.8. Election of Officers

Sharon reiterated the slate of names. Maryellen moved the slate of offices be approved by acclamation; Sadie seconded the motion. The slate was approved.

K. Appointed by Board for One-Year Term (2020-2021)

Sadie Valverde will serve as Treasurer and Cindy Murrell as Coordinator of Programs/Speakers.

L. Volunteer Positions

Volunteers are needed for Coordinators of Social Media, and the Observer Core, and for the position of Historian.

M. Other Business Items

M.1. Change in Meeting Time and Dates for General Meetings

Kathy said discussion about changing the meeting days and times began earlier this fiscal year based on feedback from the League survey. It's hopeful this will improve the diversity of the membership. It was determined that the regular meetings will be the second Saturdays of the month 10:00-11:30 AM, beginning Aug. 8, 2020. Due to coronavirus crisis, meetings will continue via Zoom.

M.2. Review of Committees & Directors' Reports

M.2.a Education Committee

The Education Position Update Committee (EPUC) is working to update the LWVSNM position on education to include information resulting from the Yazzie/Martinez lawsuit. The proposal included in the packet was approved by the LWVSNM Board. This is not an official "study" and is only an update to the existing position. It will come to the local League for approval next year. Sharon suggested interviews by the Education Committee include AmeriCorps representatives. The EPUC is also developing an advocacy plan to bring to the State Board for consideration. The State wants to be dismissed from the Court oversight and our Committee believes oversight needs to continue until there is more evidence that significant changes have been integrated throughout districts, schools, and classrooms to provide equitable high-quality learning environments in all New Mexico public schools for all students.

M.2.b. Immigration Committee

In our packet of materials is the NM League's Immigration position, which is what the local League supports. There is no local League position. Since immigration advocacy is an important part of our League, Eileen would like the local Immigration Committee to review the state's position and develop some specific language regarding the border area, so that we have our own unique statement.

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M.3. Other Committee/Directors' Reports

LWVNM Council will meet on Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Contact Kathy/Eileen if you want to attend. Erika offered to be another delegate.

M.4. LWVUS Convention, June 25-28, 2020

There will be two LWVSNM delegates attending the convention via Zoom: Eileen and Dale will be voting delegates, and Kathy will also attend. Since our League reported 99 members to the LWV US on January 31, we are entitled to two delegates. If we could have reported 100 members, we would have had three delegates.

M.5. Announcements

None

N. Direction to the Board from the Members

The following recommendations were offered:

- Erika proposed an analysis of all costs to run the League on a per member basis. This will help develop next year's budget.
- Sadie will need to meet with Kathy to transition into her Treasurer duties.
- Dale will also help transition others into voter services procedures.
- Marjorie Burr asks that a diversity plan be developed.
- Jo suggested that the League hold a unit meeting on diversity prior to starting the plan.
- Vicki suggested that the League advocate for vote-by-mail.
- Cindy requested that there be a continued focus on increasing diversity in the organization and on continuing to partner with PFLAC, NAACP, and other nonpartisan organizations in accomplishing our mission of educating voters and expanding access to voting.
- Sharon recommended that the League discuss workforce changes in the state under the Cabinet Secretary of Workforce Solutions.

O. Other Discussion

- Maryellen reminded everyone that there are two ways to renew their membership in April and May, via online. Step-by-step information will be provided in *The Voter*. Members can still send checks via US mail or pay via PayPal.
- A new member orientation via Zoom is tentatively scheduled for June 6. An announcement will be announced in *The Voter* newsletter.
- Eileen presented a final poll question to think about: "What are the most important advocacy and actions in 2020?"
- Next regular meeting will be Monday, May 11 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom (the login will begin at 3:50) with Tracey Bryan, CEO of The Bridge of Southern New Mexico. Members need to log into the Zoom meeting before the session begins.
- On Monday, June 8, there will be an educational program that addresses the Yazzie/Martinez lawsuit. More information will be forthcoming.

P. Adjournment

The Annual Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Minutes by: Maryellen Kebbel and Jo Galván Nash



LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Special Meeting

April 3, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

The single agenda item was a resolution to make budget adjustments for emergency assistance to ease the impact of COVID-19. After discussion a total of almost \$1.1 million was approved to be taken from the Telshor Facility Fund. Part of the funds will be used to reimburse a variety of government and non-profit organizations for expenses in addressing individual needs – FYI (\$200,000), Las Cruces Public Schools (\$150,000), La Casa (\$74,500), La Piñon (\$74,500), Casa de Peregrinos (\$74,500), Community of Hope (\$75,000), Community Action Agency (\$75,000), and Fishes and Loaves (\$2,500).

Reimbursable services include food boxes for the elderly, essential supplies such as groceries, internet and virtual learning for students, driving of COVID tests to Albuquerque and meal delivery. Other funding included \$40,000 for personal protective equipment for city staff meeting with the public, \$125,000 for utility assistance, and \$7,500 for economic crisis analysis. The assistance to local organizations is need-based and the organizations will have to front some of the money and will then be reimbursed for qualified participants.

It is anticipated that further budget adjustments may be needed and that there will likely be twice per week meetings of the council for the foreseeable future. The amounts approved for non-profits at this meeting were constrained by the effort to get funds out quickly without waiting for contract modifications, for example. Concerns expressed by councilors included protective equipment for those who may need to check on child welfare issues and the potential needs associated with a surge in virus cases in the community.

The funding for analysis of the economic aspects of the crisis will focus on longer term issues. The city staff is exploring micro-lending and looking at some of the things being done in Albuquerque. In addition, the city is sending email twice per week in English and Spanish to registered businesses to make them aware of resources available.

One councilor noted that there are construction workers in Luna County to work on the border wall.

Las Cruces City Council • Regular Meeting

April 6, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

All councilors and the mayor were present.

Several items were removed from the consent agenda to request further information. These involved audit work related to Friends of Las Cruces economic development activities, purchase of uniforms to be used city-wide (the city has been piggy-backing on the county's contract but is now entering into its own), and several flood control infrastructure improvement projects. After brief discussion, all were approved unanimously.

Financial assurance resolution involving ground water at the Griggs/Walnut superfund site. This action commits the city to pay for mitigation if it cannot itself continue with the project. The resolution passed unanimously.

Creation of an ad hoc committee to review the El Paseo Corridor area blueprint designed to make the area more viable from the perspective of area residents and NMSU students. After considerable discussion, the resolution was amended to include the South Solano area in the corridor. The mayor abstained in this vote since his business is located on South Solano.

Comments from Councilors: The Police Chief noted that there has been an increase in officers on patrol but he has not noticed any trend in crime during the pandemic. Councilor Flores reported on the visit of high school students with the city on February 21 and expressed the hope that the program could be repeated next year. Several councilors noted that behavior of UTV drivers in congregating in violation of the Governor's orders about large groups and the city manager reported that masks have been obtained for transit and senior program employees.



OBSERVER REPORTS

Las Cruces City Council • Special Meeting

April 10, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

All councilors and the mayor attended via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting was to address the impact of COVID-19 and the state of emergency proclamation by the mayor on April 7.

Extension of the mayor's emergency proclamation for an additional 14 days: approved unanimously

The purpose of the emergency declaration was discussed in detail including the use of the proclamation to enforce the governor's orders such as limiting meetings of groups of people to no more than five. Some members of the council emphasized that enforcement should focus on education rather than punishment. Another reason for the emergency declaration is to put the city in a position to qualify for federal funds which could reimburse the city for expenses incurred in conjunction with the impact of the virus. Councilors expressed interest in having more data on community spread, where the "hot spots" in Doña Ana County are located, and the expected trajectory of the disease in this area.

Ordinance allowing an exemption in the procurement code: approved unanimously

The ordinance allows the council to allocate amounts up to \$250,000 more quickly. Organizations receiving funds will still have to have a valid contract with the city. However, the city has existing MOUs with most of the organizations being considered for funds. The contracts are for reimbursement of expenses incurred by the approved organizations and are performance based (measured in terms of quantity and quality of services).

Budget adjustment to provide emergency assistance: approved unanimously with total funding of about \$684,000.

Some concern was expressed about applications for services that included a question about whether the applicant had filed for unemployment benefits; the response indicated that this information was not a basis for deciding whether the applicant qualified for services but was used to get a clearer picture as to the kinds of people being served.

Griselda Martinez, Economic Development, presented information on what her department is proposing as assistance for small businesses, especially those that are disadvantaged. Already small businesses registered with the city have received email blasts directing them to resources available and the department is beginning to gather information about success stories. Funding from the city could provide loans ranging from \$2,000 to \$50,000. In response to a question about who had asked for this proposal, Ms. Martinez reported that Albuquerque has been granting micro loans, with funds coming apparently from the Albuquerque City Foundation. The Economic Development proposals involve working with CDFI using plans that were under way before the virus crisis. This relates to the Telshor Fund in that it serves disadvantaged small businesses.

Councilors brought forward additional funding requests for Habitat for Humanity (\$60,000), Loaves and Fishes (\$7,500), Community Action Agency (up to \$249,000).

The Telshor Fund focuses on health care and indigency so other needs might be better addressed through the city's general fund. The city staff will be looking at the individual proposals in more detail to see how they relate to the funding available. Specific proposals address the needs of isolated individuals, personal protective equipment, meal service, hand washing stations, and hotel rooms for first responders.

Update on federal monies awarded to the city by Amy Johnson Bassford, grant administrator

Under the recently approved federal CARES Act, a total of \$25 billion is available to reimburse for expenses associated with responses to COVID-19. Reimbursements are limited to 75% of expenses incurred. Information about the implications is changing continuously. The funding is retroactive to January 20 and states, cities, and non-profits have opportunities to apply. Eligible expenses must be related to preventing, preparing for and responding to the coronavirus threat including distribution of food, water, ice, medicine; communications to the public and reimbursement of states, tribes and local governments for overtime costs. FEMA is also providing for personal protective equipment for fire fighters.



OBSERVER REPORTS

Las Cruces is eligible for \$6 million to fully reimburse for transit operations since January 20 and can use transit to deliver meals. The police department is eligible for \$59,662 with no required match and the city's appropriation from HUD through the CDBG program has been increased by \$560,525. Other funding is available through the FAA, Economic Development Administration, NEA and NEH. Grant guidelines for some of these funds are not yet available.

Las Cruces City Council • Work Session

April 13, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

All councilors and the mayor were present via Zoom

Legislative session summary presented by Larry Horan, lobbyist for the city. Among the Las Cruces specific items approved, he noted the following capital outlay projects: Doña Ana Move Trail, Amador Hotel, Skate park renovation/construction, soccer complex improvements, and septic system replacement. He particularly remarked favorably on the efforts from the community during the session concerning the skate park and soccer complex.

Looking forward, a special session is expected in late June or early July in light of the COVID-19 and oil price situations. The FY21 budget was based on the assumption of \$50/barrel oil prices. Recently the price has been below \$30, reflecting reduced demand for oil during the pandemic and a price war between Saudi Arabia and Russia. The session may address the need for fiscal stimulus, the FY21 budget, and election issues associated with the pandemic. The FY21 budget situation may be cushioned by the recently created tax stabilization reserve which now measures \$1.3 billion, but FY22 is more problematic.

Mr. Horan has heard no current discussion on taking back awarded funds for capital projects (indicating that these could benefit the economy). Projects funded by severance taxes are probably okay as these funds cannot be transferred to cover operating expenses. Longer term we are advised to prepare for searches by the state for all available funding through sweeps, etc.

Questions/comments from councilors These focused on how the city councilors might be more effective in working with legislators especially during the session, the potential to suspend the anti-donation clause of the constitution in emergency situations such as the pandemic, the need to diversify the economy away from the oil and gas industry, and the need for a mental health facility for southern New Mexico. In light of the current economic crisis, the mayor recommended looking at options for the future to include \$1 million budget cut for the city, a budget cut up to 10%, and/or the use of hold harmless funds that have been set aside.

There was also some discussion of the gross receipts tax collected from online purchases – funds which are currently flowing to the state, but which won't be fully shared with the cities until FY22.

Budget for 2020-2021 The proposed budget was created pre COVID-19 and did not include any increase in property tax or gross receipt tax rates. A resolution to approve the budget will come to the council on May 18. The presentation included the following:

- Capital improvements and infrastructure: police evidence building (for evidence and found property), wastewater plant rehabilitation, Madrid Ave. extension with bike lanes, refuse and recycling buffer program to promote safety and aesthetics, lighting upgrades in city council chambers.
- Economic and community development: West Mesa Industrial Park, purchasing power agreement for solar energy, re-launch of the economic development website to emphasize services for the business community, partnership with Community Development Financial Institutions.
- Communications, Involvement and Follow-up: expansion of 311, closed caption for city council meetings, increase in Spanish translation, video streaming through YouTube.

—continued next page



OBSERVER REPORTS

- Education: Neighborhood Academy, interaction with community schools
- Proposal to move the sustainability program to the city manager's office from Economic Development
- About 67% of the budget is employee-related. There are requests for about 21 new positions.

Local economy and COVID-19: The current challenges are lack of data for estimates, uncertainty concerning the timeline for resolution of the crisis, and the fact that most industries have been impacted in a very short time (within a month). A sector by sector analysis of gross receipt revenues suggests that there could be a decrease of 19% for the remainder of FY20. However, until recently gross receipts revenue has surpassed projections (as a result of retail sales and construction activities).

Questions/comments from councilors: There was discussion of salary issues related to recruiting for vacant positions, especially city inspectors. In addition, questions were raised about the status of the strategic plan and implementation of performance indicators developed under the previous city manager and there was a request for an update in the future. Departments are providing quarterly reports on how they are doing relative to the performance measures and have incorporated the strategic plan into the budgeting process.

Las Cruces City Council • Special Meeting on the Coronavirus Emergency

April 17, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

All councilors and the mayor were present via Zoom.

Emergency assistance: Additional assistance of \$139,500 was approved unanimously -- \$65,000 for Habitat for Humanity to complete five homes that can't currently be completed by volunteers and \$74,500 transfer to support micro-loans to businesses. Previously these items had been discussed for funding from the Telshor Fund but the city general fund had been deemed more appropriate.

Updates on the health situation in the state (David Morgan, public information officer, and Dawn Sanchez, regional director of the health department; and Michael Landon, state epidemiologist).

- Data on testing for the virus is now available on a zip code basis. Data on positive test results are available by age, gender, and race at cv.nmhealth.org.
- With respect to modeling, Presbyterian has a model and LANL and Sandia are also helping with modeling of the trajectory of the disease. Based on the Presbyterian model, the peak for the state is expected May 18 with later dates for areas that are less affected.
- The rate of positive tests in Doña Ana County is 26 per 100,000 which is considerably below the rate in the state and in El Paso.
- The doubling time for cases in New Mexico is 4.6 days with the DAC rate lower (and dropping in the last 7 days).
- The data available on social distancing suggests more social distancing in DAC than in the state.
- Testing kits are still going to Albuquerque for processing. There are relatively few inconclusive/indeterminate tests in the state, maybe none in DAC.
- A testing program is being rolled out (to include DAC) which will look at cases where there are no symptoms. The CDC is doing a study on transmission in the Las Cruces area.
- NM has the eighth highest testing rate after NY, MA, RI, NJ, LA, VT, and WA and we are the fifth lowest in terms of positivity (suggesting that we are doing a lot of testing). NM is encouraging contacts to be tested (and is looking at expanding contact tracing and testing) and is testing in nursing homes. The current focus is on testing in hot spots to reduce the spread and asymptomatic testing in congregate housing.
- Per Dr. Landon we should count on a vaccine within about a year.
- The rapid test machines have been deployed outside the Albuquerque area but these are probably not currently available in Las Cruces. Test results are available in 24-72 hours.



OBSERVER REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tempore Gandara suggested that with the move to telemedicine, the city needs to look at deploying hotspots to serve those who lack access to internet services.

Dissemination of information about the coronavirus emergency (presentation by city staff) Following are some of the ways that the city has been communicating with the public: Media buys (and bonus spots) for radio stations with a mix of demographics; city council video campaign (English and Spanish) on the emergency, mental health issues, city council emergency action, high quality of tap water, patience and kindness; social media campaign; COVID-19 alert center with more than 171 alert posts; inserts in May utility bills re: social distancing; bus wraps in English and Spanish; retooling of census outreach by moving to social media; alternatives to general obligation bond public meetings.

Las Cruces City Council • Regular Session

April 20, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

All councilors and the mayor were present via Zoom.

Resolution concerning increase in rates for solid waste: This item, a \$2/month increase in residential rates, had been tabled in March. Quite a few commercial customers are requesting reduced service during this period, resulting in reduced revenues. A motion to again table this proposal until July 20 was approved unanimously in hopes that we would know more about the economic impact of the current crisis by then.

Grant Application for the Municipal Arterial Program: This involves a grant application for funds from the NM Department of Transportation to create high intensity crosswalks at 4th and 17th Streets on Picacho. The crosswalks will be similar to those on El Paseo at Las Cruces High School and on University Ave at NMSU and will provide access to trails that cross Picacho at those locations. The city will provide 25% of the funding (\$117,750). This application process required quick turnaround and was approved unanimously.

Purchase of a performance management software system from SHI International Corp. The state has a statewide price agreement with the vendor. Currently each department provides its own spreadsheet concerning performance. The city wants to upload from multiple sources and monitor performance in one place and provide transparency with dashboards. There were over 200 requirements for the software. Up to \$68,000 initially for implementation and up to about \$124,875 annually. Approved unanimously.

Proposed Zoning Change from C-2 to C-3 This change affects 8 parcels (including the Si Bistro location) which have dated zoning and will allow for redevelopment. There were no concerns from property owners in the area. Approved unanimously.

Public hearing on transfer of ownership and change of location for a liquor license. No participants in the hearing. Approved unanimously.

Two affordable housing agreements for Desert Hope Apartments: The agreements are required to begin construction and were approved unanimously.

Other Loan Applications to the New Mexico Finance Authority were approved unanimously. These were for streets and infrastructure on those streets, water and wastewater projects; facilities energy saving project (\$9.8 million) including lighting improvements and greater HVAC efficiency; and the joint utilities energy savings contract, phase II, with energy savings to cover the debt (\$9.8 million – mostly for wastewater system improvements.

Treasurer's Report

Reported by Bob Burn, Treasurer

APRIL 2020

Date	Description	Deposit/Credit	Payment/Debit	Balance
	Citizen's Bank Balance			\$ 6,556.93
	Outstanding Payments/Debts Previous Months			
	LVWUS 83 Full Members (x\$32)+17 Household(x\$16)			
1-Apr	Ck 1035 Good Samaritan LWV Dinner		\$ 330.00	\$ (330.00)
5-Apr	Membership Renewals (PayPal)	\$ 189.81		\$ 189.81
12-Apr	Ck 1037 Consumer Cellular		\$ 19.03	\$ (19.03)
14-Apr	Membership Renewal (Check)	\$ 65.00		\$ 65.00
22-Apr	Membership Renewals (Checks)	\$ 195.00		\$ 195.00
24-Apr	Membership Renewals (PayPal)	\$ 221.59		\$ 221.59
24-Apr	Donation (PayPal)	\$ 14.37		\$ 14.37
				\$
				\$
				\$
	Citizens's Bank Balance (Actual)	\$ 685.77	\$ 349.03	\$ 6,893.67
	Diversity Fund	\$ 1,000.00		
	Immigration Study Donation Fund	\$ 625.00		
	Youth Engagement	\$ 500.00		
	Payments/Checks Not Cleared			\$ 6,893.67
	Future Payments/Debits Outstanding			
	Account Balance after Debit Payment			\$ 6,893.67

Thanks to Bob Burn for serving as the LWVSNM Treasurer during 2019/2020

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 – May 2020

The Book Club is in hiatus until further notice

Status	Book
Books Selected for Future Meetings	
TBD	<p>Blowout: Corrupted Democracy, Rogue State Russia, and the Richest, Most Destructive Industry on Earth 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>
TBD	<p>The Education of an Idealist: A Memoir 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>
Candidate Books for Future Selection	
Date in left column is the date on which the book was added to this list	
1-29-20	<p>Why We're Polarized 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>
1-5-20	<p>Trump and His Generals: The Cost of Chaos 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>
12-30-19	<p>Crossfire Hurricane: Inside Donald Trump's War on the FBI 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>
11-30-19	<p>Tough Love: My Story of the Things Worth Fighting For 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>