

the VOTER

DECEMBER 2020
Volume 52, Issue 7



INSIDE

Upcoming Events	2	Observer Reports	5-10
Legislation	3	Treasurer's Report	11
Meeting Times Changed	3	Book Club	12
Draft Minutes Summary	4-5	Advocacy Workshop	12

Co-Presidents' Messages

Dear LWV SNM Members,

About a year ago, I read *Accidental Presidents*, by Jared Cohen. The book draws attention to a variety of gaps in our Constitutional processes some of which have been addressed by amendments over the years. One of the stories that struck me most vividly was a potential assassination attempt against John F. Kennedy between the time of his election as president and the meeting of the electoral college. According to the author, the would-be assassin was deterred from blowing up himself and the president-elect by the presence of his family members. Aside from prolonging JFK's life for three years, the failure of the plan spared us from dealing with one of many situations not fully contemplated in American law, namely the death of the unofficial president-elect. Now we have been confronted with more such circumstances, some of which have been addressed through "norms," if not laws.



Kathy Brook

Since we have all been hearing references to the Electoral College, you might be interested in learning more about the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. New Mexico is one of 15 or 16 states that has joined the compact, pledging that our electoral votes will go to the winner of the national popular vote once the compact takes effect. It would become operative once states with total electoral votes of at least 270 have joined. Their website is www.nationalpopularvote.com.

Still on election-related issues, I recommend that you view the Nov 16 webinar on the history of redistricting in NM. You can find it at fairdistrictsnm.org.

On a different topic, I have been working through some of the League's materials on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. I recommend to you the TED Talk, "The Danger of a Single Story," by Chimamanda Adichie. You

Legislation: Dec. Meeting Focus

New Meeting Time Set

Local legislators will join us for our monthly meeting to discuss what priorities they have in mind for the 2021 legislative session. And, the meeting will also be the venue for LWVSNM to present its priorities to them.

There is a new meeting time and date for the Dec. Saturday meeting. Join us at **2 pm** on **Saturday, Dec. 5**. Look for your email from Eileen VanWie which will have the Zoom link for you to click. Please join a few minutes early. (If you don't get an email, [contact Eileen](#).)

Several League members spent time during November's meeting to discuss several advocacy issues, ending with our 2021 priorities list. See page 3.

can find this at <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/dei-guide/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-guide-section-2-individual-learning-and-internal-evaluation>. There is also a recording of a webinar discussion of the TED Talk.

Wishing you all the best for the holidays.

—Kathy Brook
Co-President



Greetings LWVSNM Members,
The pandemic has made life challenging, more for some than for others. As we reflect on the economic inequalities in our state, we know there are people struggling to physically survive. The virus doesn't leave anyone safe from the disease, however. A special thank you goes out to all of the frontline health care workers, as well as

—continued next page

Co-Presidents' Messages (cont.)

essential workers that are keeping our world alive. With Thanksgiving just completed, hopefully you took time to think about being grateful for what you have.

Kathy and I were lucky to recently be invited to the Unitarian Universalist Church Roundtable to discuss the election process. Doing research for that discussion was valuable for me to begin analyzing what happened. There is much more study needed to better understand the complex process, which will continue until Jan. 20.



Eileen VanWie

We can be very proud of the election system in New Mexico. There are many strengths to it, including paper ballots, online tools, early voting, organized poll sites, and short waiting lines at the polls. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Election Performance Index rates New Mexico in the top five of our country. Thanks go out to our Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver and to most of our county clerks, including Doña Ana County, for supporting accessible, free, fair, and safe elections.

The election revealed that we cannot make judgments based on election polls. We are obviously a very divided country. There are divisions between urban and rural areas, divisions among religious and ethnic groups. As members of a League, we must all be more civically engaged publicly than ever before and strongly advocate for issues that will re-strengthen our democracy.

The League of Women Voters of the United States has had a "Making Democracy Work" campaign since the late 1990s. It started to maintain the power of our representative democracy in the hands of the people at every level of government. It focused on five key indicators of a healthy democracy: voter participation, campaign finance reform, diversity of representation, civic education and knowledge, and civic participation. Over the years additional issues were added to the campaign. In May 2019, the LWV joined with the Declaration for American Democracy Coalition writing to all candidates running for President of the U.S.A., seeking their commitment to comprehensive democracy reform, where everyone participates. Perhaps this needs to be our focus in the coming years.

Stay safe!

With warm regards,
Eileen VanWie
Co-President

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2020

Dec. 1, Tues.: **Board JEDI Review**, 2pm, via Zoom. Contact [Eileen](#) if interested in the work on the JEDI Strategic Action Plan.

Dec. 5, Sat.: **Advocacy Workshop**, 10am-Noon to prepare for '21 Legislative session (See p.12)

Dec. 5, Sat.: **General Meeting, 2 pm** via Zoom (*new date and time*); watch for your email from Eileen (vanwieek@yahoo.com) to attend the meeting. TOPIC: 2021 Legislative Priorities with our Legislators.

Dec. 21, Mon.: **Board Meeting, 1:30 pm, (new time)** via Zoom. [Contact Eileen VanWie](#) in advance if you would like an email with a Zoom invite.

Dec. 21, Mon.: **Affordable Housing Committee**, 4pm, contact Beth Bardwell for information or a Zoom link (betbardwell@gmail.com)

JANUARY 2021

Jan. 9, Sat.: **General Meeting**, 2pm, via Zoom. Las Cruces attorney Denise Torres will discuss the Judges' election/retention process and the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission which she chairs.

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

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

Johnnie R. Aldrich – Secretary

Sadie Valverde – Treasurer

Kim Sorensen – Immediate Past President

Maryellen Kebbel – Membership Director

Erika Graf-Webster – Youth Engagement Director

Dale Yeo & Helen Zagona – Voter Services Directors

Jo Galván Nash – Public Relations Director

Sharon Thomas (chair) & Judith LaPointe –

Nominating Committee

P.O. Box 15142 • Las Cruces, NM 88004

575.524.VOTE (8683)

www.lwvsnm.org

LWVSNM to Advocate for Legislation

In recent communications from Dick Mason, it appears that the Primary Elections issue is expected to be an important discussion by the state LWV at the 2021 Legislative session. In addition, the State has developed its set of legislative priorities:

- Tax Reform and Revenue for Essential Services
- Reproductive Rights
- Redistricting Reform

In Las Cruces, the LWVSNM Board recently spent considerable time developing local priorities for the upcoming session:

1. Health Security Act (2019 SB 279)
2. Educational Funding:
 - Increase funding for multicultural materials and learning technology necessary for distance learning.
 - Allow school districts to use prior year student enrollment calculations (2019/20) to avoid significant decreases in funding due to declining enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Allow retired, certified educators to return to work in public schools immediately without penalty in order to address the state's teacher shortages.
3. Broadband available as an essential public utility for all New Mexicans.
4. Green energy that protects our environment and promotes responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

These issues will be discussed with area legislators at the LWVSNM regular meeting on **Saturday, Dec. 5** (via Zoom) at **2 p.m.** Please join the discussion via Zoom.

LWVSNM members recently received an email from Eileen VanWie emphasizing that the League's protocol is to speak with one voice. Co-Presidents VanWie and Kathy Brook will be providing the local information that represents our organization. At the State level, we have specific lobbyists that represent the LWV of New Mexico. "We also encourage all members to advocate for political issues with our Legislators and elected officials as individuals," VanWie said. Elected Officials need to hear from "we, the people."

Check out the [Who's Who Directory of Elected Officials on our website](#) for existing and newly elected officials' contact information.

Members also are encouraged to subscribe to the Action List [LWV NM Action Mailing List](#) to be contacted with action alerts related to the legislature, voter education, and other political things of interest. Please check out the "Rules for League Mailing Lists" also at this website.

NEW MEETING TIMES

Times for the monthly business meetings are being adjusted to accommodate calendars and to avoid conflicts with other civic and government meetings.

The Dec. 2020 meeting will be on the first Saturday, but remaining business meetings in 2021 will be held on the 2nd Saturdays and will begin at 2 p.m.

2021 Regular Monthly Business Meetings:

2nd Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. (not 10:00 a.m.) via Zoom

2020/2021 Board Meetings:

3rd Mondays at 1:30 p.m. (not 2:00 p.m.) via Zoom

DRAFT SUMMARY OF MINUTES

(Complete set of minutes will be sent to League Members)

LWVSNM Board Meeting

Monday, November 16, 2020 • Via online Zoom, 2-4pm

Board Members Present: Kathy Brook and Eileen VanWie, Co-Presidents; Johnnie Aldrich, Secretary; Erika Graf-Webster, Youth Engagement Dir.; Jo Galván Nash, PR Dir.; Kim Sorenson, Past-President; Sadie Valverde, Treasurer; Dale Yeo, Voter Services Dir.

LWV NM has selected legislative priorities for advocacy: Redistricting, Decriminalization of Abortion, and Primary Election. After quite a bit of discussion, the LWV SNM Board approved the following list of 2021 legislative issues as priorities when the legislature convenes in January 2021:

- 1) Health Security Act (2019 SB 279);
- 2) Educational Funding, specifically:
 - a) Increase funding for online learning materials, including multicultural and technology;
 - b) Allow school districts to use prior-year student enrollment calculations (2019/20) to avoid decreases in funding due to declining enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - c) Allow retired, certified educators to return to work in public schools immediately without penalty in order to address the state's teacher shortages.
- 3) Broadband availability as an essential public utility for all New Mexicans
- 4) Green energy that protects our environment and promotes responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

LWVNM sponsors an Action Committee chaired by Dick Mason that advocates extensively during the session. The committee provides information about specific legislation addressing League priorities and the names of committee members in which bills are being considered. Individual members are encouraged to sign on to this committee by email: act@lwvnm.org where members can also get information about other issues of their own choosing.

Because ZOOM meetings will likely continue for a few more months, the Board has adopted a process for voting online on issues that come up for consideration between the regularly scheduled meetings. Under the "Members" menu of the League's website, [click to review the new policy on Electronic Voting](#).

One such issue was a request to support "the *Learning Action Buffet* efforts to influence equity in New Mexico public education" by signing its Equity Pledge. After an online motion was moved and seconded, two days of online discussion followed. Final Vote: 3-yes, 7-no; Motion Failed.

The Board considered once more the possibility of joining one of the three local Chambers of Commerce (Greater Las Cruces, Hispanic, or Green). Jo had gathered information from the other NM Leagues about their practices in regard to such memberships. Eileen announced that the annual membership of the GLCCC would be \$200.00 for an organization and that some of its positions do not agree with ours. Dale suggested that we also investigate the Green Chamber more thoroughly. Erika spoke in favor of joining a chamber in order to have more opportunities for public exposure of League positions. **The decision was tabled for further review.**

Sadie reported the current bank balance is \$3,692.40, of which \$1,567 is funds committed for the operation of various committees. Maryellen, who could not attend, sent a written report indicating that current membership stands at 99. **(Eileen pointed out that adding just one more member before January 31, 2021 would allow us to send one more delegate to LWV state and national conventions.)**

—continued next page

Draft Minutes Summary (cont.)

Voter Services Activities leading up to and during the November 3 election were extensive, including: League members showed up to encourage voting and answer questions on two Saturdays at the Farmers Market; distributed flyers through the city's Senior Services Meals on Wheels deliveries; work with NMSU students and faculty through email blasts and setting up voter registration tables; served as poll watchers at both Early Voting and Election Day polling centers; designed, sold and distributed "Vote Early!" yard signs; work with the state PR Committee to create print and radio public service announcements and distribute social media posts throughout the state; and, visited various nursing homes answering questions about absentee voting.

A major project was distribution of the Voters Guide in English and Spanish. There were no English copies left and in retrospect the number of Guides could have been increased from the 1,000 to the 2,000, which has been done in Presidential election years. There will also be further reviews by state and national of Vote411.org, its use, and any changes needed to the website for future elections.

The Empowering Voters Planning Committee, chaired by Eileen, has analyzed our participation and made several recommendations for improvement in the next major election.

—Minutes Summary Submitted by Johnnie R Aldrich,
LWVSNM Secretary

Yellow indicates action



OBSERVER REPORTS

LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Work Session

OCT. 26, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

Legislative Priorities and Capital Outlay: Councilors engaged in a discussion with lobbyist Larry Horan of the city's legislative priorities and capital outlay requests. Final priorities will be approved by the Council in December. Possible capital projects include sewers and utilities (septic tank replacements on the E. Mesa), street and flood control projects (also on the E. Mesa), public safety (replacements of data terminals in vehicles, ADA and security needs at fire station 1, upgrades of police and fire radios), and building improvements at Branigan Cultural Center and Youth Services buildings. Larry Horan recommended adoption of a fairly short list (3-5 projects). Legislative priorities included in the discussion were regulation of tobacco products, legalization of cannabis, tort reform (based on recommendations from the Civil Rights Commission), elimination of the tax on Social Security benefits, and Coalition of Sustainable Community recommendations.

The agenda also included a presentation from city staff concerning revitalization strategies and tools. Priority areas identified by Elevate Las Cruces are Amador Proximo, El Paseo, and Apodaca, with S. Solano added more recently.



OBSERVER REPORTS

LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Meeting

NOV. 2, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

The meeting was unusually short. Councilors approved a city investment of \$400,000 in LEDA funds in Lasen, Inc., a company which specializes in aerial mapping using drones and helicopters, including mapping of pipelines. With respect to Lasen, NM Economic Development Department will contribute up to \$750,000 to support expansion of the company which has been in Las Cruces for 30 years and will be relocating from N. Telshor to a location near Burn Lake.

A citizen participation plan required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was also approved. The plan describes how citizens are able to participate in development of the Consolidated Plan and Analysis of impediments to fair housing choices. Natalie Green is the contact for those wishing to participate in the process.

LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Work Session

NOV. 9, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

Items included a report on the existing skate park and discussion of renovation (with funds provided by the state) and/or replacement of the park. This was the only portion of the meeting that I have been able to review. Other items were the city's Diversion and Development Juvenile Citation Program, the 2020 ethics survey and the East Lohman Development Plan.

SOUTH CENTRAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY • SPECIAL MEETING

NOV. 11, 2020

Observer: Johnnie R. Aldrich

via Go To Meeting – 9:07 a.m.

"Surely this was the shortest meeting in the history of this Board," commented a disembodied voice of one of the participants after Chair Lynn Ellins declared adjournment at 9:23 a.m.

This special meeting dealt with only two financial items. After months of waiting for approval of the Board's loan application to the New Mexico Finance Authority, final acceptance and terms arrived last week and needed Board approval before January 1, 2021. The over \$3 million 30-year loan at 2.4% annually pays for the acquisition and installation of a Gas Collection System at the Corralitos Landfill. The collection system is necessary for the landfill to comply with federal regulations of the Clean Air Act. Approval was unanimous.

Also unanimous was approval of "hazard pay" for "All SCSWA Employees Working Onsite" and 4 administrative staff who have continued to work despite the danger of contracting the COVID-19 virus. The original resolution was presented in last month's regular Board meeting but was tabled for re-wording because of the need for legal clarification. Director Patrick Peck pointed out that, unlike the Albuquerque and El Paso trash collection entities, our local services have had no interruptions or shutdowns because of employee shortages. Qualified employees will receive \$125.00 per pay period "until the end of COVID-19 restrictions."



OBSERVER REPORTS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS • SPECIAL MEETING

Nov. 13, 2020

Observer: Jo Galván Nash

All Commissioners and the County Manager were in attendance.

ELECTION RESULTS: The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met as the canvassing board and heard from Chief Deputy County Clerk Lindsey Bachman who presented a thorough report regarding the results of the Nov. 3 General Election. The canvass is an official audit of the election results. She reported that 82,913 persons voted in Doña Ana County. Of the total, 27,815 voters cast their ballot via absentee, 40,236 voted early in-person and 14,862 voted in-person on election day. Approximately 62% of eligible county voters voted.

“The turnout was enormous in a time when people are not leaving their houses,” Bachman said. “We all should be proud that voters found value in our democratic process.”

She said COVID-19 did impact the election: there was an increased number of absentee voters and those voting early; additional health precautions were necessary and PPE was distributed; poll worker trainings were done via Zoom; there was a reduction in the number of voters who could be in voting rooms; and, outdoor absentee ballot boxes were utilized.

Bachman said there “was a robust effort to recruit new people” to staff all the election sites, and the transparency of the election “was highly monitored.” A total of 290 people, including members of the [LWVSNM](#), participated in the various election assignments, as indicated in the chart below.

Name of Organization	Position Appointed	Number of Appointees
Democratic Party	Challengers	37
Republican Party	Challengers	92
	County Canvass Observer	1
Republican Candidates	Watchers	94
Common Cause	Watchers	52
League of Women Voters 	Watchers	6
Attorney General’s Office	Watchers	2
University of New Mexico	Academic Observers	2
Empowerment Congress of DAC	Watchers	4
	TOTAL	290

Bachman described some of the challenges they faced, such as a computer server which did not crash but did run slowly causing results to be delayed. Bachman said the server needs to be replaced before the next major election. She also indicated tensions among a few individuals for various reasons, but matters were quickly resolved. And, there is need for a recount for State Representative District 53 since the totals were so close. It will be done around the first week of December, she said.

Prior to voting on the resolution, five residents spoke during public input urging the BOCC to vote against accepting the results. They described several “voting discrepancies.”

The BOCC ultimately voted in favor, 3-to-2, to certify the election results, with Commissioners Isabella Solis and Ramon Gonzalez voting no. The canvass must also be approved by the Secretary of State who also generates all the certificates of nomination. The County then mails the certificates to the winners.



LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Meeting

Nov. 16, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

The Council approved purchase on a sole source contract of body cameras for all officers responding in the city, including codes and animal control. The Council also approved amendments to the 2019 Action Plan for HUD CDBG funds. For the COVID housing cost assistance program, eligible households can receive up to \$1,500/month for three months with demonstration of financial hardship and appropriate documentation. About 422 applications have been submitted for Las Cruces mostly for rent.

In the comment section of the agenda, several councilors expressed support for the Think New Mexico agenda item on predatory lending practices.

Ngage Meeting (Virtual Leaders Circle)

Nov. 17, 2020

Observer: Cathy Burn

Summary of last meeting

Covid19 has increased the digital divide. Conversation to develop a plan to set up a broadband task force that will for the foreseeable future have all communities of NM involved. Begin a draft of a sign-on letter to be sent to agencies all over the state.

Presentation by Department of Information Technology Cabinet Secretary John Salazar

New Mexico has a Broadband Strategic Plan. This plan was developed by a company in Maryland. The company researched economic conditions, education, health agencies, public services, political and civil engagement, public safety, telework, and Covid19 responses. In addition, data also was collected to identify underserved residents and businesses. It is a three-year plan that has a list of projects as well as cost by counties. Funding will be provided the state, local agencies, and grants, such as federal grants.

Some challenges would be: (1) recurring funding for the ISP provider; (2) large land mass areas in New Mexico; (3) counties with broadband but no computers; and (4) support for writing grants.

Leadership Circle Discussion

A task force has been formed to write a letter to all agencies throughout the state to be signed by members of these agencies for support for the Broadband initiative.

Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education • Regular Meeting

Nov. 17, 2020

Observer: Eileen VanWie

President Terrie Dahlman, VP Maria Flores, Sec. Ray Jaramillo, Members Carol Cooper and Teresa Tenorio

Recognition:

Anelise Elmquist, Sierra Middle School Student – wrote the book [Cooper's Tale: A COVID-10 Story from a Dog](#) (available from Amazon). She also sells her greeting cards at the Farmers' Market.



OBSERVER REPORTS

LCPS SCHOOL BOARD (cont.)

Public Comment:

Have a social hour on Zoom for students.

UP Coalition (drug abuse prevention) offers support to the school.

Superintendent's Report:

COVID-19 report on LCPS website.

Canvas Resources for parents also on website

Check-in with your kids volunteer project collaborating with Gadsden ISD and Hatch Valley PS

To consider return to hybrid, need less than 5% COVID positivity rate.

DAC has a rate over 18.6% of cases

"Please stay away from El Paso"

Principals:

Ralph Ramos, Shelley Harris (Hermosa Heights), Fred Montalvo (Picacho Middle School), Eric Fraass (Mayfield HS)

School re-entry plan for hybrid/operational has detailed actions for "What if" situations, including a "Wellness Screening Agreement" with parents. Parents promise to do a daily home health check before student leaves for school.

The 2021 Legislative Priorities for the LCPS Board of Education are:

- Ensure transportation funding is fair, equitable and adequately funds student transportation, including fuel costs, maintenance costs, replacement buses every 12 years, and air conditioning in high heat index areas;
- Ensure that SEG funding for FY22 is based on FY20 student enrollment calculations and not FY21 calculations to avoid significant decreases in funding due to the COVID-19 emergency;
- Hold Harmless Cash Balances: Support any initiative to protect district cash balances;
- Advocate for sufficient funding for the full implementation of the Student Diabetes Management Act;
- Advocate for funding to expand the broadband infrastructure in Southern New Mexico;
- Work with the Public School Capital Outlay Council to secure adequate funding for rebuilding Columbia Elementary School.

CITY OF LAS CRUCES PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD • WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING

Nov. 5, 2020 and Nov. 12, 2020

Observer: Beth Bardwell

Members absent: 1 from Work Session; 0 from Board Meetings

Total number of Board members: 7

At the regular board meeting, it was announced that Delilah Walsh has been hired as the Director of Las Cruces Public Utilities replacing Dr. Jorge Garcia who retired in September.

The work session continued to update Board members about options to augment the City's drinking water supply. Utility staff and consultants from Shomaker & Associates continue to update Board members about alternate supplies of drinking water in the event of declines in groundwater from over pumping or legal constraints on the City's existing water rights that might arise from the Texas vs. NM litigation currently pending in the U.S. Supreme Court.



CITY PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD (cont.)

City residents have been fortunate to date that the cost of supplying drinking water is relatively minimal consisting of the cost of running the pumps and minimal treatment of groundwater for bacteria and suspension of iron and magnesium. Because our current supply is so inexpensive, wise use of the existing water supply will always be the cheapest and most reliable option for securing Las Cruces' water future.

Still, under discussion is one option to use Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) to augment the existing supply. ASR injects surplus treated wastewater underground via injection wells or settling basins and "banks" it until a later date when it is recovered via groundwater supply wells. Albuquerque and Rio Rancho currently utilize ASR as well as El Paso. Prohibitive costs may include treating injected wastewater to primary drinking water standards which as mentioned above we don't have to do now. The Board agreed that consultants should proceed with feasibility analyses and preliminary discussions with New Mexico Environment Department and the Office of the State Engineer.

Another option would be to treat wastewater to primary drinking water standards for direct reuse, otherwise known as "toilet to tap." Although some people might object, Las Cruces discharges our treated wastewater into the Rio Grande which is then diverted and treated at El Paso for drinking water. Cloudcroft also is pursuing direct potable reuse. The advantage of this option is you avoid the entire cost of pumping it underground and pumping it back up as in the aquifer storage and recharge alternative above. There was little to no Board discussion regarding this option although additional feasibility analyses may be forthcoming.

The final option discussed was a third ag to urban transfer, this time to be imported from the Mimbres groundwater basin that is the sole source of drinking water and municipal supply for Deming. Trends in groundwater use in the Mimbres Basin indicate that the Deming area is experiencing some of the greatest declines in groundwater storage in the Mimbres Basin. There was no discussion about the potential impacts to Deming or food production. The estimated cost of the water pipeline from Deming to Las Cruces alone is \$92 million dollars.

Larger and more difficult questions are not likely to be discussed, at least by the current Utility Board, such as should water scarcity limit growth in a desert community subject to drought and climate change?

LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • WORK SESSION

Nov. 23, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

The first agenda item was a very interesting presentation and discussion concerning the city's Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program, administered by the Las Cruces Fire Department. The purpose was to describe plans to reduce the numbers of residents who use 911 for services that can be better addressed elsewhere and to help the elderly to address gaps in their health care. The main users of 911 served by the MIH are Medicare seniors with mobility issues and Medicaid patients over 55 who are disabled with low income, substance abuse and/or mobility issues.

The Fire department has partnered with NMSU and with Memorial Medical Center to deploy respectively Master of Social Work Students and resident physicians with MIH. Challenges include the lack of Medicare coverage of personal care services, substance abuse and mental health issues, and reluctance of clients to move to assisted living or nursing homes. The discussion included a description of the LCPD Crisis Intervention Unit which handles about 1,500 calls annually.

Treasurer's Report

Provided by Sadie Valverde, Treasurer

OCTOBER 2020

Date	Description	Deposit/Credit	Payments/debts	Balance
9-24-20	Citizen's Bk Bal			\$9,292.41
9-28-20	Deposit - \$400.00 fr. El Paso Electric Co. voter's guide-			
	65.00 – membership dues			
	95.00 – donations	\$560.00		
9-29-20	Deposit - donations – transfer	268.35		
	pay-pal			
10-06-20	Deposit - donation – Rosa Morales	97.50		
	transfer fr. Pay-pal			
Total Deposit as of 10-23-20				925.85
CURRENT BALANCE AS OF 10-23-20				\$10,218.26
EXPENSES:				
9-29-20	ABC Printing – voters flyers		\$75.00	
10-12-20	– We Are It – web page		42.24	
Total Expenses paid as of 10-23-20				117.24
Total Bank balance as of 10-23-20				\$10,101.02
Donation	\$3,939.20			
yard signs	1030.00			
Diversity Fund	1000.00			
Immigration Study Fund	625.00			
Youth Engagemnet	500.00			
Account Balance with Bank Statement as of 10-23-2020				\$10,101.02

Books for LWVSNM Book Club – December 2020

Status	Book
Books Selected for Future Meetings	
Dec 18, 2020 2pm Via Zoom	<p>Why We're Polarized by Ezra Klein</p> <p>This <i>New York Times</i> and <i>Wall Street Journal</i> bestseller shows us that America’s political system isn’t broken. The truth is scarier: it’s working exactly as designed. In this “superbly researched” (<i>The Washington Post</i>) and timely book, journalist Ezra Klein reveals how that system is polarizing us—and how we are polarizing it—with disastrous results.</p>
Jan 28, 2021, 2pm Via Zoom	<p>Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson</p> <p>The Pulitzer Prize–winning, bestselling author of <i>The Warmth of Other Suns</i> examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.</p> <p>Beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people’s lives and behavior and the nation’s fate.</p>

[Contact Erika Graf-Webster](#) to get information about joining the book club via Zoom

Advocacy Workshop – Prepare for the 2021 Legislative Session

A virtual event

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico Presents

Effective Citizen Advocacy at the Legislature

Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 • 10 am to Noon
LWVSNM Members & the public are invited

TO REGISTER: www.lwvnm.org

Learn tips from legislators and a professional citizen lobbyist on how to interact with legislators, speak at hearings, and advocate for your cause.

This workshop is about the legislative process,
not specific issues.

Speakers:

Senator Nancy Rodriguez
D-Santa Fe

Representative Rebecca Dow
R-Grant, Hidalgo & Sierra

Jim Jackson,

Former Chief Executive Officer of Disability Rights New Mexico, an independent private non-profit organization authorized through federal law to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

