

the VOTER

JANUARY 2021
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Co-Presidents' Messages

Happy New Year, LWVSNM Members!

We all are probably wanting 2021 to be a better year than 2020. Hopefully we all have something for which we are grateful, even with the struggles we had this past year.

The LWVSNM Nominating Committee will be starting their work in January. Be thinking about ways that you may be more involved with the League in 2021. Besides elected and appointed Board positions, there will be a need for several non-board positions. Also be thinking about legislative issues that you will follow and advocate to your legislators.



Eileen VanWie

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution got sidetracked with the pandemic in 2020. We will make every effort to celebrate during 2021.

Prior to 1920 women in Southern New Mexico had a history of working for suffrage, mostly through the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). Researching this topic provided evidence that the GFWC Woman's Improvement Association (WIA), was responsible for many improvements to Las Cruces, including advocating for women's voting and other rights from 1894 through 2000. One of their projects in 1898 was to purchase land to create a park "for the entire population of our town," which is now Pioneer Women's Park. Minutes from their January 5, 1918 meeting show an 80-cent charge that paid for a telegram that leader Laura Frenger sent to President Woodrow Wilson with the message, "pass the suffrage amendment."

In February of 2019 the Leagues of New Mexico were approached by a representative of the William Pomeroy Foundation, a New York based foundation committed to support the celebration and preservation of community history. To celebrate the 19th Amendment, they would provide markers for successful

Electing NM Judges

Our guest at the next regular meeting will be Las Cruces attorney Denise Torrez who is also the chairwoman of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission. She will provide insight into the New Mexico judges' election process which involves a retention process via the election ballot.

As a reminder, there is a new meeting time for the regular business meetings in 2021. The meetings are still on the second Saturdays (Jan. 9), but will begin at **2 pm**. Look for your email from Eileen VanWie which will have the Zoom link for you to click. Please join a few minutes before 2pm. (If you don't get an email by the meeting date, [contact Eileen.](#))

applicants in a variety of states. When it became evident that members of the WIA had been most influential in Las Cruces, the remaining GFWC in Las Cruces (the Progress Club) joined with us to make application to the Foundation.

The application required that the site first had to be on the [National Votes for Women Trail \(NVWT\)](#). This is a project of the National Collaborative for Women's History. The application also required primary sources of documentation, which we found at the NMSU Library Archives. Then it needed approval from the Las Cruces Parks & Recreation Program and from the City Council. Next was an approval process with the Pomeroy Foundation, which resulted in changes to the language on the sign/marker. The marker has arrived at City Hall and the City is planning a viewing of the marker on Zoom for Friday, Jan. 8, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

—continued next page

Co-Presidents' Messages (cont.)

[The site is now also on the Pomeroy Foundation link.](#)

The last part of the project will be the most fun, staking the marker at Pioneer Women's Park and planning how to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of the Woman's Improvement Association. Women's History month in March would be a good time to recognize local suffrage!

— With warm regards,
Eileen VanWie



Dear League Members,

Thanks to all of you for your contributions (financial, organizational, and inspirational) to our activities in 2020. I recently filled out the LWVUS survey asking for details on our activities and accomplishments during the period from January 1, 2020 - November 3, 2020. I was able to report that we had about 30 people (members and a few friends) who helped with efforts related to voting ranging from voter registration to distribution of Voter Guides to contacts with candidates. Then we concluded our year with almost all Doña Ana County legislators attending our legislative conversation via Zoom.



Kathy Brook

This Voter contains an article on nonpartisanship by LWVNM President Hannah Burling (p. 6) which makes reference to the LWVUS withdrawal of recognition from LWV Nevada. The following links may be of use to you in understanding what the issues were:

<https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2020/07/26/apparently-some-democrats-think-gerrymandering-is-fine-in-blue-states/>

<https://vote-nevada-blog.org/>

<https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwv-intervenes-protect-more-120000-voters-texas-drive-thru-polling>

— Best wishes for 2021,
Kathy Brook

Upcoming Events

JANUARY 2021

- Jan. 1, Fri.: **New Year's Day holiday.**
- Jan. 9, Sat.: **General Meeting**, 2pm, via Zoom (*new time*); watch for your email from Eileen (vanwieek@yahoo.com) to attend the meeting. TOPIC: Denise Torrez, Las Cruces attorney, will discuss the elections retention process for NM judges.
- Jan. 18, Mon.: **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday**
- Jan. 18, 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. League members welcome!
- Jan. 18, Mon.: **Affordable Housing Committee**, 4pm, contact Beth Bardwell for information or a Zoom link (betbardwell@gmail.com)
- Jan. 19, Tues.: **Tentative start of NM Legislative Session**, Santa Fe
- Jan. 23, Sat.: **JEDI NM Women's March** via Zoom, 10am-2pm
- Jan. 30, Sat.: **New Membership Orientation**, 10am, Zoom, [RSVP to Maryellen Kebbel](#)

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 and Johnnie Aldrich – Nominating Committee

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575.524.VOTE (8683)
www.lwvsnm.org

Welcome new members!

Maris Cundith, Debra Hathaway, Don Kurtz, Ann McMahon, Rorie Measure, Rosa Morales and Christine Newtonson.

The LWVSNM Board is pleased to announce that our organization will soon become a member of the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce. Conversation about joining one or more of the local chamber organizations was spearheaded by new member Rosa Morales. (We also thank Rosa for her \$100 contribution to cover membership fees.)

Before voting on the recommendation, the Board investigated the costs and benefits of joining one or more chambers; we also received feedback from other NM Leagues.

While the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Las Cruces offers a number of interesting meetings about our community, its advocacy differs significantly from that of the League. The mission of the Green Chamber is to “promote socially and environmentally responsible businesses and to build a vibrant and successful local economy based on the “Triple Bottom Line” – that is, on “investing in people; protecting our air, land and water; and promoting profit through sustainable business practices. We were unable to get much response from the Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber.

The Board voted on Dec. 5, 2020 to join the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce. It is relatively inexpensive: \$125/year for a non-profit. The non-profit rate includes an announcement in the Chamber’s newsletter (with a circulation of 1,000), invitation to Chamber events, a listing in the online directory, and a one-hour consultation on improving our social media presence. In addition, we would be featured three times a year in the weekly zoom chats and three times in the member spotlight eblasts.

Other non-profit members of the Green Chamber include Mesilla Valley Hospice, Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary, the Foundation for the Las Cruces Museums, Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity, Friends of the Branigan Library, and Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks.

We look forward to our future collaboration.

—Kathy Brook, Co-President

Attention LWVSNM Members: Orientation Set for Jan. 30, 2021

There will be a New Member Orientation Zoom Meeting on **Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** Our new members, as well as any members who want to know how to get involved in our many activities, will learn a bit of our history, as well as many worthwhile volunteer opportunities such as immigration, voter rights, and other committees. To RSVP, send an email to Maryellen.kebbel@gmail.com and we will be sure to send you the Zoom meeting information.

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.

2021 Regular Monthly Business Meetings:

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

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, December 21, 2020 • Via Zoom, 2-4pm

Board Members Present: Johnnie Aldrich, Secretary; Kathy Brook, Co-President; Erika Graf-Webster, Director of Youth Engagement; Jo Galván Nash, PR Director; Kim Sorensen, Immediate Past President; Sadie Valverde, Treasurer; Eileen Van Wie, Co-President; Dale Yeo, Director of Voter Services.

Co-President Kathy Brook called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. Treasurer Sadie Valverde reported our current bank account balance as \$3,692.40. Maryellen Kebbel, director of member services, reported that our membership number has now reached 100. *(After the meeting our number reached 101.)*

After lengthy investigation, the Board voted unanimously to join the Green Chamber of Commerce, where annual organization dues are \$125.00 for non-profits. For this money we will receive an announcement in the newsletter (circulation 1,000), a listing in the online directory, and a one-hour consultation on improving our social media presence. We would also be featured three times a year in the weekly Zoom chats and three times in the member spotlight eblasts.

This Green Chamber's mission and goals are fully in line with those stated in our own published positions. Its mission is to "promote socially and environmentally responsible businesses and to be a vibrant...local economy based on...investing in people; protecting our air, land and water; and promoting profit through sustainable business practices." Joining the Green Chamber, as several other non-profits have done, would considerably expand our presence in the Mesilla Valley business community.

The Board also began continued planning for our role as host of the LWVNM Convention, scheduled for April 24-25 as a Zoom event. One major advantage of this kind of meeting is that speakers for the main event will not have to travel, so Board members suggested several well-known governmental leaders that probably wouldn't be able to be our keynote speaker otherwise. Since a fundraising silent auction is usually a feature of this state convention, we will consult with the LWVNM Board about how to do this on Zoom.

Another major discussion involved the use of a \$1,000 Diversity Fund donation made last year by LWVNM Board member Meredith Machen. Unanimously, the Board approved the proposal that "a board member may bring to the board a proposal for paying the dues of a prospective non-student member based on the prospective member's contribution to the organization with respect to race, ethnicity, age, gender and/or skill set...". Generally, this will be a one-time payment of dues but may be extended beyond one year with the approval of the board."

Further planning for the future will include a New Member Orientation to be held on Saturday, January 30, 2021 via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.

— Submitted by J. R. Aldrich, Secretary

Beginning with this issue of *The Voter* we plan to feature one member of our organization each month. This will help us continue to connect with one another during the ongoing pandemic. And, we will get to know a little more about the members in our organization. Feel free to contact [Jo Galván Nash, Voter Editor](#), to recommend someone to feature in a future newsletter.

Let's Meet LWVSNM Member ... Anita "Ann" McMahon

Lives in Silver City, NM

Joined LWVSNM in December 2020

Here in Silver City, where the climate is gentle, the scenery beautiful and the people – well, a bit eccentric, I am writing to confirm all of this with a short bio as a new member of the Southern New Mexico League.

For four decades of my career, I worked in radio and television news both on the air and in management. In all that time, whenever news had to be gathered, reported or verified, the League was one of our primary sources of unbiased, factual, reliable information. The League's reputation was and is stellar.

When I retired, my interest turned to pursuing my photography full time. So much so, I sold my aircraft. This produced two projects that went on display and tour in museums - "Coyote Tales" and "The Disappearing Mining Landscape of Grant County". The former is photography of the wildlife of southern New Mexico and the latter a documentation of the mining history of Grant County. You can view some of my work at www.AnnMcMahon.com.

A couple of years ago, politics became a distraction from all of this. Events were happening that were completely out of the norm for our democracy. It led to worry and I looked for ways to be part of the solution. I signed up with the County Clerk to register voters only to be thwarted in that effort by the pandemic. It was then I turned to the League. I am delighted to work with you ladies and gentlemen and, in this new year, be looking for ways to make a difference in a much altered and battered political landscape.

— Ann McMahon



Ann with her camera gear and her buddies!

101 Strong

Thanks go out to each and every member of the LWVSNM. In December 2020, our organization surpassed 100 in the number of members. We currently stand at 101 members. Reaching this number will allow our organization to have another delegate — a total of 3 — to be able to attend and vote at the national League of Women Voters' conference.

We thank you for your continued commitment. And, we anticipate we'll include member #102 very soon!

Stay Healthy

Have you signed up for a COVID vaccine? If not, you can do that online: <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/> Persons currently eligible for the vaccine (as of Dec. 22) are those in Phase 1-A which includes health care workers and those in long-term care facilities. By registering, you'll be notified as to when you're eligible.

SAVE THE DATE

**VIRTUAL LEAGUE DAY AT THE
LEGISLATURE**

Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021 • 10:30 am
Opening remarks

What it Means to be Nonpartisan

Since LWVUS withdrew recognition from LWV of Nevada, questions have come up about being non-partisan. As a starting point, the LWVUS policy states that the League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. Our state position, which goes into more detail, can be found here: <https://www.lwvnm.org/documents.html> under Policies.

In practice, what does this actually mean? We all have our own political opinions. We all have freedom of speech. But in order to be effective when we speak for the League, we voice the League viewpoint, which begins with our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

We do not only empower voters who agree with our positions. We empower all voters. We offer voter information and registration, voter guides, issue forums and all of our voter education efforts to everyone. We cannot do this effectively without credibility, integrity or civility.

The League has its positions, based on a thorough study of issues and agreed on via consensus or concurrence. We advocate for policies based on these. Do we support or oppose bills? Yes, we do. Do we criticize government policies? Yes, we do.

But we do not criticize or support political parties or candidates.

The League envisions “a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.” When everyone participates, we can do a better job to ensure a government that works in the public interest, a government that works for everyone.

We can’t achieve that vision by publicly saying we’re fighting with one party or another. We can’t do that by pointing out a political party’s mistakes or a candidate’s less than stellar behavior. Doing our job effectively, our job of educating the public and advocating for our positions, requires a different approach.

Karen Wentworth, currently co-president of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico, once said, “We are the people who color inside the lines.” Because of the integrity of our process, we’ve made it successfully through our first century and we’re beginning our second.

— Hannah Burling, LWVNM President

LWVNM JEDI New Mexico Women’s March – *The Power of Women Voting on Jan. 23, 2021*

In 2016, thousands of women converged on our nation’s capital to draw attention to women’s issues and what they perceived as a threat to women’s rights. In the years since then, the Women’s March has grown as a call to action to support the rights of marginalized groups: people of color, immigrants, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, people with disabilities. The March in Washington, D.C. has expanded to state, regional, and local marches including millions of women and supporters.

The New Mexico League of Women Voters had hoped to organize a Women’s March in 2021 in our state’s capital as an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the power of women voting. However, even our plans for a car parade were thwarted by public gathering restrictions necessitated by the global pandemic, so we are instead hosting a Virtual Women’s March.

New Mexico Women’s March: The Power of Women Voting will take place on **Saturday, January 23, 2021**, from 10 am to 12 pm over Zoom. The event will include speakers from individuals and groups excited about the power of women voting, and eager to further women’s issues. You can also expect musical performances by New Mexican women and a virtual march of women from all across the country.

JEDI Committee members Rebecca Álvarez and Katie Christianson are excited to bring together a wide diversity of women’s organizations. Please join the League in submitting your own 10-second portion of the march on video. Contact Katie Christianson at 509.301.5143 or katie@katiechristianson.com to participate.

Please feel free to contact me directly with further questions.

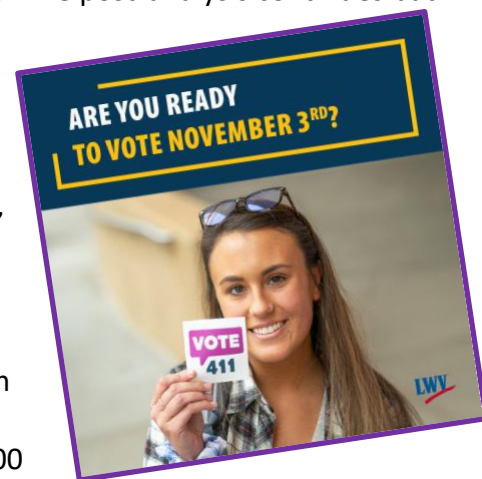
— Katie Christianson
Guest Contributor

Vote411.org Post-Election Analysis

LWVSNM participated on a committee consisting of members from all New Mexico local leagues (and the LWV NM) to make recommendations about advertising and publicity for [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) prior the November General Election. After the election passed, the committee drilled down into whether radio, television, social media, billboards, banners, and print advertising was worth the money spent. The post-analysis continues but some of the conclusions are:

NATIONAL LEVEL reported by Megan Brown, LWVUS:

- VOTE411 had over 7.7 million sessions from Jan 1st through Election Day, and nearly 6.7 million of those sessions included the online voters' guides. This represents a 141% increase in sessions nationwide to voters' guides on VOTE411 as compared to the 2016 cycle (technically the most comparable election cycle), and a 20% increase over the 2018 election cycle (the previous year with the most sessions). These amazing numbers show just how much the voters turn to the League to find the information they need on Election Day.
- On November 3rd there was detailed candidate information on over 41,000 candidates from 22,000 races in all 50 states and DC. That means that we had nearly 20,000 MORE candidates on VOTE411 than in the 2018 cycle, and 28,000 MORE candidates than the 2016 Presidential election. Over 450 Leagues from 44 states (including DC) participated in the voters' guide program this cycle.
- In July 2020, the complete [VOTE411.org/es](https://www.vote411.org/es) Spanish website was launched – meaning that all our VOTE411 election information is now available to Spanish speaking voters. Since its launch, we have had over 110,000 users access the Spanish language content.



NEW MEXICO LEVEL – data from Jan. 1- Nov. 3, 2020

- The majority of New Mexicans using Vote411 were under 45 years of age, indicating a young electorate was interested in using this type of election resource.
- There were 36,067 New Mexico users on the Vote411 website.
- Top five cities for usage:
 - Albuquerque: 18,571 (9.89 – the number of Vote411 pages visited during an average online session)
 - Rio Rancho: 5,300 (8.96 – the number of Vote411 pages visited during an average online session)
 - Santa Fe: 3,197 (8.68 – the number of Vote411 pages visited during an average online session)
 - **Las Cruces: 1,821 (7.98 – the number of Vote411 pages visited during an average online session. It is noted that Las Cruces' usage was low compared to other cities of comparable size.)**
 - Los Alamos: 928 (5.75 – the number of Vote411 pages visited during an average online session)
- Of social media, TikTok and Instagram were not generally used for publicity (except in Santa Fe).
- Future elections:
 - Need to focus on Spanish-speakers who listen to radio that appeals to voters under age 45.
 - Consider publicizing through yard signs (as LWVSNM did in Las Cruces).
 - Investigate cost of ads in city buses and billboards.
 - 411 needs to be publicized in 2021 for the interim elections so that the name recognition continues to grow.



— Jo Galván Nash, SNM PR Director



LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Meeting

Dec. 7, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

Legislative Priorities for 2021: City staff provided a summary of resolutions approved by the council since 2016 that could be relevant to setting priorities. These included interest caps on amounts that could be charged on small loans, sharing of gross receipts tax data with local governments, state and local tax reform, amendments to the Whistleblower Act, funding of water litigation with Texas and Colorado, feasibility of a behavioral health hospital in southern NM, liquor license reforms, the End of Life Options Act, a Rio Grande Water Management study, taxation of Social Security benefits, cannabis legalization, a state owned bank, and regulation of tobacco products and electronic smoking. No action was taken as the council was interested in getting more information on these items.

Capital outlay priorities approved for the legislative session include: septic tank replacement projects, East Mesa roads and drainage, Madrid extension, public safety communications infrastructure, and improvements to Branigan Cultural Center and the airport.

Business fees: Based on a recommendation from the LC Economic Recovery Board, Council approved a temporary reduction in the annual business registration fee to provide some relief to local businesses.

BOARD OF DONA ANA COUNTY COMMISSION (BOCC) • Regular Meeting

Dec. 8, 2020

Observer: Jo Galván Nash

Outgoing Commissioners: This was the final meeting for Commissioners Isabella Soliz (district 4) and Ramon Gonzalez (district 2) who were recognized for their years of service. County Manager Fernando Macias said “One has to serve in public office to understand the challenges. We honor them on behalf of all the employees. They were always dedicated to try to improve the compensation for county employees and we thank them for their efforts. They have accomplished a great deal during their tenure on the Commission.” The Commissioners received a piece of Nambe. Also pictured at the right is Commission Chairman Lynn Ellins (center).



Spaceport: Following the release of an audit regarding Spaceport America operations, the BOCC voted unanimously to request “adequate funding for the operations of Spaceport America and to stop the reliance on excess gross receipt tax revenues for operations of Spaceport America.” Chair Lynn Ellins said “questionable expenses” at the Spaceport have been made public and the director has been removed. He said the county has “contributed a lot of money over years for operation of at the Spaceport. It may be too late for a refund...” but he said they want to ensure the funds are expended as they were intended. Agreeing was Commissioner Manuel Sanchez who stated, “The operations of the Spaceport can move forward without any hint of impropriety with the public funds.”



LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Work Session

December 14, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

Public Bank: The Council was provided a presentation on public banking with speakers including Angela Merkert from the Alliance for Local Economic Prosperity, Don Mayfield from the Credit Union Association, former mayor pro tem Sharon Thomas, and incoming Senator Carrie Hamblen. NMSU economist Chris Erickson offered some cautions concerning what could be expected from a public bank. It was noted that loans from a public bank would be made in partnership with local financial institutions based on goals established by the legislature. The current discussion focuses on putting \$50 million of state funds into such a bank.

Tax Increment Development District (TIDD): Dena Belzer of Strategic Economics provided a very thorough analysis of tax increment districts in general and the statute in NM in particular. Her recommendations based on reviewing the Royal Crossing TIDD were that the council seek outside assistance in evaluating and negotiating a TIDD to optimize the tool's effectiveness, that the council require an annual cash flow and sources and uses analysis, establish clear policy objectives for undertaking a TIDD, and evaluate the option of having the council serve as the district board.

IPRA Information was presented to the Council concerning the Inspection of Public Records (IPRA) requirements and the city's processes for responding. In New Mexico, the public's right to know is the rule and secrecy is the exception. In the past two years, IPRA requests have exceeded 1,000/year. Requestors can be charged reasonable fees for copying and downloading materials, but the city works with requesters who may not have computer access or who can't afford to pay for copies.

LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Meeting

December 21, 2020

Observer: Kathy Brook

Legislative Priorities: The Council approved a resolution covering a number of legislative priorities discussed at its meeting on December 7. More information was requested concerning changes to the Whistleblower Act and the public bank.

Other items approved were participation in the AARP network of age-friendly states and communities, a contract amendment on walking/jogging/biking trails (a GO bond project), and a contract for construction services for fire station 3 (also a GO bond project).

In the comments Councilor Bencomo expressed a desire for the council to support additional funding for education and Manager Pili reported on working with the county on moving the county from red to green status with respect to COVID.



OBSERVER REPORTS

LAS CRUCES BOARD OF EDUCATION • Regular Meeting

December 15, 2020

Observer: Eileen VanWie

Public Comment:

Board was thanked for changing agenda to follow Robert’s Rules of Order; two parents expressed concerns about remote learning for their children; Unified Prevention (UP) Coalition provided teacher training on drug abuse and wants to partner more with LCPS.

Reports:

NEA-LC and CSEC-LC (teacher/certified union and classified staff union) representatives made brief reports. Student Advisory Committee Report – (Gabriela) Seniors are worried about graduation; students want quality time with teachers on Zoom; students want Friday “townhall” meetings via Zoom with SAC moderator and invited Superintendent Karen Trujillo.

Superintendent Trujillo’s report included:

A parent survey revealed that 64% of parents want to return to hybrid school model when the County reaches “green” status for the corona virus. The survey revealed 4% of students needed computers and 6% needed internet. The school district addressed those needs. There are now hotspots at every school parking lot and other community buildings. Counselors are following up with students where parents asked for help. The District is taking care of the social and emotional needs of students and teachers. A survey of employees revealed that 49% want to return to a hybrid model and 51% wanted to stay fully remote. Students in the graduation class of 2021 will not have to take any additional tests to receive a diploma.

Community Schools Policy

Dr. Wendy Miller-Tomlinson presented the third reading of Policy KJJ for Community Schools and unanimous approval was given. The policy defines community schools and gives examples of student and family supports, including after school and other programs tailored to the social, emotional, linguistic, cultural, and academic characteristics and needs of the student population. There are expectations for strategic planning and implementation. The school district provides district level and school-based coordinators, ongoing professional development, support for data collection and analysis, and program evaluation.

School district policies and regulations can be reviewed here: <http://policies.lcps.net/>

Local Government Meetings:

LAS CRUCES SCHOOL BOARD

1ST Tuesdays:
Work Sessions, 4pm
3rd Tuesdays:
Regular Meetings, 4pm

COUNTY COMMISSION

2nd Tuesdays:
Regular Meetings, 9am
4th Tuesdays:
Regular Meetings, 9am

LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL

1st & 3rd Mondays:
Regular Meetings, 1pm
2nd & 4th Mondays:
Work Sessions, 1pm

MESILLA BOARD OF TRUSTEES – 2nd & 4th Mondays: Regular Meetings, 6pm

LWVSNM Hears from Local Legislators

On Dec. 5, the League had a tremendous meeting with a majority of our Legislators who presented their top priorities for the upcoming session. They also received information about the state League's interests and the four LWVSNM priorities:

1. Health Security Act
2. Educational funding
3. Broadband to be Available as Essential Public Utility
4. Green Energy

Following are some of the priorities presented by Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena; Rep. Angelica Rubio; Rep. Nathan Small; Rep. Doreen Gallegos; Rep. Raymundo Lara; Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Sen. Ron Griggs, Sen. Crystal Diamond; Sen. Jeff Steinborn; Sen. Bill Soules; and Sen. Carrie Hamblin. (Also included are some of the committees they sit on, or will be on in 2021. These were those known at the time of the LWV meeting.)

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena, #33; Committees include Judiciary, Taxation & Revenue.

1. Portability Fund – bring revenues home.
2. Not in support of Health Security Act. Will take a decade to put into action. Too many families desperate for coverage.
3. Decriminalize abortion in NM (w/ Sen. Linda Lopez); get it off the books.
4. Partnered with Sen. Cervantes requiring police to wear body cameras.

Rep. Angelica Rubio #35. Committees include Vice Chair of Energy; Consumer & Public Affairs

1. Supporter of environmental and conservation issues and energy to diversify our economy.
2. Extension of work with the Energy Transition Act.
3. Housing Issues.
4. Broadband – A lack of broadband is a big impact in isolated communities and schools.
5. Reintroduce legislation to remove private prisons.
6. Reduce price gouging on prescription drugs.
7. Modernize Legislature with salaries for legislators.

Rep. Nathan Small, #36; Committees include Appropriations and Finance; Energy & Environ.

1. Health – expand access and affordability.
2. Economic Opportunities, Manufacturing, Energy.
3. Education will be important for economic development.

Rep Doreen Gallegos, #52; Committees include House Local Govt/Land Grants

1. Expand broadband.
2. Rural health. Attract health care graduates.
3. Kids in abusive situations are on rise, due to children at home more due to pandemic.



Most of our area lawmakers participated in the League's annual Legislative Conversation via Zoom. 40 individuals heard what the Legislators have planned for the 2021 Session.

Rep. Raymundo Lara, #34; Committees include House Ag. & Water Resources; House Ed.

1. Educational bill for homeless students; more accommodations for foster/homeless children; more restorative justice measures.
2. Public notices in Spanish media.
3. Support decriminalization of abortion.

Sen. Joseph Cervantes, #31; Committees include chair of Economic & Rural Development; previously Conservation and Judiciary

1. Budget - highly volatile due to reliance on oil & gas. State needs more stable, predictable ways to fund the budget.
2. Crime: NM ranked bottom among states. More solutions needed.
3. Special interests and the amount of money infused into politics is concerning.
4. Continue opposition to privatized prisons and expanding them.
5. Economy. NM's economy still failing, and decisions are made without involving the business community enough.

-continued next page

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES (CONT.)

Sen. Ron Griggs, #34 (represents mostly Otero and Eddy counties); **Committees include Econ. & Rural Dev.**

1. Maintain opposition to late-term abortions.
2. Liquor Reform needs to change. Will sponsor a bill to tweak state economic development law for communities to have a local tax to use in ways that are best for community.
3. Reintroduce bill for rural counties to build courtroom space.
4. Support tourism; Make White Sands and Carlsbad national monuments.
5. Focus on Oil and gas: 30 to 50% of our economy is driven by oil/gas which goes up and down.
6. Need bipartisan participation on redistricting.

Sen. Crystal Diamond, #35, (mostly represents area west of Doña Ana County)

1. Work with ag association for getter assistance to farmers and ranchers.
2. Veterans concerns and support to them.

Sen. Jeff Steinborn, #36; Committees: previously Vice Chair Senate Public Affairs; Rules

1. Reforms for full disclosure of all lobbying.
2. Legalization of cannabis. Got that bill amended to get 25% of state tax revenue to go toward treatment; generate revenue from cannabis.
3. Evaluation of a public bank initiative.
4. Grow outdoor economy and protect ecosystems.
5. Reintroduce the local choice energy act – let community procure energy from whoever they want.
6. Support bill to expand behavioral health and make it more affordable and accessible.
7. Concern about bringing in high level nuclear waste. (Holtec proposal to ship spent nuclear fuel to NM.) Want our state to get involved with that and study further.
8. Do support absentee balloting done earlier.

Sen. Bill Soules, #37; Chair Sen. Education Comm., previously on Conservation

1. Education. Budgets have stabilized and hope for no cuts in education. Want extra revenue into education and teacher salaries.
2. Allow “Hold Harmless” for school districts since many students were “lost” due to pandemic, which impacts funding based on enrollment.
3. Clean energy. New home construction should be wired for solar and electric vehicles. Need new provisions in building codes.
4. Fossil Fuels are becoming uneconomical. When building utility systems, don’t build gas, and instead, use solar, as example.
5. Liquor licenses are archaic and are holding up NM’s economy
6. Support legalization for marijuana; support Health Security Act.
7. Support bills that will improve educational funding as a result of the Yazzie/Martinez lawsuit.

Sen. Carrie Hamblen, #38

1. Voters were confused with absentee ballot and need to start that process sooner.
2. Release anti-abortion laws. There is a fear that Roe vs. Wade will be overturned. Need to protect providers.
3. Legalize cannabis.
4. Support 1% of permanent fund earmarked for education.
5. Push for statewide broadband.
6. Tax system to be reassessed; gross receipt tax punishes sole proprietors.
7. Keep politics out of Redistricting.

NOTE: www.lwvnm.org now has the latest info on the session and the League supported/opposed legislation. Early filing of legislation starts Jan. 4. There will be a link on the front page of the Legislative website: <https://www.nmlegis.gov/>

TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE SESSION DATES: Jan. 19-March 20, 2021

Keep in touch with your legislators. Their phones and emails will be updated at this website: <https://nmlegis.gov/> or refer to the [LWVSNM Who’s Who Directory of Elected Officials](#)

- Keep messages short (including phone calls to their capitol offices).
- Email materials but keep it to one page, if possible.
- Emails on behalf of the League will be sent from Co-Presidents only.

Treasurer's Report

Provided by Sadie Valverde, Treasurer

NOVEMBER 2020

Date	Description	Deposit/credit	Payments/Debts	Balance
10-23-2020				10,101.02
2 deposits		\$159.04		
4 checks			\$6,567.66	
Current Balance		\$3,692.40		
Transfer Paypal	11-03	\$126.54		
Deposit	11-10	\$32.50		
Current Balance as of 11-24-2020				\$3,692.40
Expenses:				
10-28-2020	Check 1053	Consumer Cellular	\$38.84	
10-26-2020	Check 1054	Bulletin	\$2,468.84	
10-26-2020	Check 1055	Camino Real Media	\$2,922.48	
10-31-2020	Check 1056	League of Women		
		Voters of New Mexico Annual Dues	\$1,137.50	
Total Expenses paid as of 11-10-2020				\$6,567.66
Bank Balance as of 11-10-2020				\$3,692.40

Fund designated in bank Balance but are
for the funds listed below:

Diversity fund	\$1,000.00
Immigration fund	625.00
Youth Engagement	500.00

Books for LWVSNM Book Club – JANUARY 2021

If you would like to participate, contact Erika at grafwebster@icloud.com

Status	Book
Books Selected for Future Meetings	
Jan 28, 2021, 2pm Via Zoom	Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson 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. Beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people’s lives and behavior and the nation’s fate.
February 25, 2pm	Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World by Fareed Zakaria In the form of ten straightforward “lessons,” covering topics from globalization and threat-preparedness to inequality and technological advancement, Zakaria creates a structure for readers to begin thinking beyond the immediate impacts of COVID-19.

2021

Goodbye 2020 – Welcome 2021!

What are your 2021 wishes?

*I'm hoping that the whole wide world will be COVID-19-FREE
so that I can visit friends in Europe!*

-Johnnie Aldrich

*I can't wait to go out to eat (indoors) and have a meal with friends without masks!
My wish is that families who lost loved ones in 2020 will find inner peace.*

-Jo Galván Nash

*My post pandemic plans are to see my daughter in Oklahoma, visit Big Bend National
Park, wander through some bookstores, and enjoy dining out.*

-Kathy Brook

*My wishes for 2021: Practice intellectual humility by embracing uncertainty and find
avenues to share reality and ultimately, common ground.*

-Rosa Morales

*My hope is two things for Southern New Mexico: first, for a Mobile Crisis Unit and
then Transitional Housing for folks for substance abuse or mental illness.*

-Mary White