

# the VOTER

MARCH 2021  
Volume 52, Issue 10



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## Co-Presidents' Messages

Dear LWVSNM Members,

Women's History Month in the United States was started in California as "Women's History Week" in 1978 during the week of March 8, International Women's Day (IWD). In the early 1900s, women were becoming more vocal about oppression in the workplace and demanding change. In 1910 an International Conference of Working Women was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, led by German Clara Zetkin. She proposed that every year in every country there should be a celebration on the same day to press for women's rights. The IWD became an official United Nations observance about 1975 and now is a national holiday in many parts of the world.



Eileen VanWie

Women's History Week became a national holiday in the United States when President Jimmy Carter issued a proclamation in February 1980. His message to the Nation included:

*I urge libraries, schools, and community organizations to focus their observances on the leaders who struggled for equality — Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Lucy Stone, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Tubman, and Alice Paul. Understanding the true history of our country will help us to comprehend the need for full equality under the law for all our people.*

In 1987 Congress passed a law designating March as "Women's History Month." The National Women's History Alliance (NWhA) selects and publishes a yearly theme. Because the 2020

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## Women's Expert to Address LWVSNM March 13

LWVSNM has an extra special speaker for the **Saturday, March 13 general meeting at 2 pm**. Dr. Martha Burk will discuss women's history and leadership. Watch for your email invite from Co-president Eileen VanWie and join the Zoom meeting slightly before 2 pm.

Dr. Burk is a women's issues expert and national consultant on gender pay equity to governments at all levels and corporations. She has designed major pay equity software systems for the U.S. government as well as state and local government entities and private corporations and specializes in pay equity analysis. She co-founded the Center for Advancement of Public Policy in Washington, D.C., and is the Money Editor for Ms. magazine and former front-page blogger for Huffington Post. She hosts the public radio show Equal Time, marketed through Public Radio International. From 2000-2005 Burk headed the National Council of Women's Organizations the nation's oldest and largest coalition of women's groups, representing more than 10 million women.

Dr. Burk remains at the forefront of the debate on women's progress in the U.S. and around the world. She has conducted workshops with women's NGOs internationally, the United Nations, and UNESCO, and has conducted training in the U.S. for delegations from around the world.



Dr. Martha Burk

She has been a U.S. delegate to international conferences in Iceland, Lithuania, Estonia, and China. Burk is a contributor to media outlets including USA Today, Foreign Policy, Working Woman, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, PoliticsDaily.com, Today Show, ABC, CBS, NBC and CNN news, Bloomberg, Fox News, PBS News Hour and The Daily Show.

## Co-Presidents' Messages (cont.)

Suffrage Centennial had a challenging year, the Alliance extended the celebration "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced" through 2021. Countless women have raised their voices and played a vital role in addressing voting and human rights.

Some of these women were members of the League of Women Voters, such as Jeannette Rankin (first woman member of Congress, 1916), First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt (U.S. delegate to UN, 1945), Shirley Chisholm (first African American candidate for a major party's nomination for President, 1960s), Lady Bird Johnson (Civil Rights Act supporter, 1965), First Lady Betty Ford (Equal Rights Amendment supporter, 1970s), and Hillary Clinton (banquet address at LWV 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by a 22-year-old, 1970).

Around the world, 29 countries had women presidents or prime ministers in 2019. There are 75 countries that have previously had women as elected or appointed heads of government since 1950. The US finally has a woman Vice President and many women have been elected to public offices. Shirley Chisholm is credited with saying, "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." Women are at the table more often now and are supporting gender equity.

Collectively, we women are finding solutions to pressing community problems, advocating for critical policy changes, and realizing our potential to make the world a better place. However, we and our allies need to continue to raise our voices and bring a folding chair.

—With regards,  
Eileen VanWie, Co-President

Dear LWVSNM Members,

Thanks to all of you who participated in one way or another in the discussion of spent nuclear fuel. The past month of focusing on this topic has been somewhat tortuous but has increased my understanding (and perhaps our collective understanding) of the issue and of League processes. The report on our responses to the consensus questions has been submitted to the state study committee and a draft position statement will be reviewed by the state board in March and then by the state convention in April.



Kathy Brook

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## Upcoming Events

### MARCH 2021

March: **Women's History Month**

March 13, Sat.: **General Meeting**, 2pm, via Zoom; watch for your email from Eileen to attend. Dr. Martha Burk, women's issues expert, is the guest speaker.

March 14, Sun.: **Begin Daylight Savings Time**, 2 am; Move clocks forward 1 hr.

March 15, Mon.: **LWVSNM Board Meeting**, 1:30 pm via Zoom.

March 17, Wed.: **St. Patrick's Day**

March 25, Thurs.: **Pioneer Women's Park Marker** featured on KRWG TV, 7:00 pm

March 29, Mon.: **Affordable Housing Committee**, 4:00 pm, contact Beth Bardwell for information/Zoom link ([betbardwell@gmail.com](mailto:betbardwell@gmail.com))



### LWVSNM ANNUAL MEETING

Sat., April 10, 2021 • 2 PM • Via Zoom

## 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 – Voter Services Director

Jo Galván Nash – Public Relations Director

Kim Sorensen, Judith LaPointe and Johnnie Aldrich – Nominating Committee

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

## Welcome new members!

Nancy Stanton and Maris Cundith (sorry for the misspelling last issue)

The LWVNM Action Committee has been meeting weekly on Fridays at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom throughout the legislative session. The current meetings with 12-20 participants are much larger than during the pre-pandemic era. Any League member who wants to participate can find instructions on the [LWVNM home page](#) by clicking on the Action link on the left side.

If you are interested in seeing the bills that the committee is following, you will find a link on [the LWVNM home page](#). The bills are divided into a top priority group and a secondary group. League lobbying is dependent on having members to cover hearings and on having League positions that are relevant to the legislation. Top priorities for this session have included fair districting, education, and equity issues. Some fact sheets are available indicating the relevant League positions.

Until this year, I had not had much opportunity to participate in the legislative hearings and have appreciated having access via technology this year. At the House Committee hearings, observers have been given an opportunity to express their support for bills by responding to a survey during the hearings.

League Day at the Legislature focused on two of the state priorities – redistricting and revenue in support of essential services. The two presenters, former Chief Justice Edward Chavez and Amber Wallin, Deputy Director NM Voices for Children, had also presented as part of the League’s legislative preview on January 14. Both were quite good, and their discussions extended beyond their previous appearances.

—Kathy Brook, Co-President

### Youth Engagement Committee Continues Outreach During Pandemic

Early in February, the Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) re-established contacts with NMSU Professors Thad Connor and Dr. Christina Medina of the Government Department, who had been very supportive of YEC activities in the past. Dr. Medina responded very favorably and suggested that she, our past intern Jon Martin and we write up our voter participation survey results for submission to an academic journal. This sounded like a valuable effort.

We also asked both professors for possible recommendations of a student to serve as a consultant to the YEC in its efforts to establish a youth group devoted to civic and community engagement, particularly aimed at getting suitable information to young people about the “when-where-how” of voter registration and of voting. Dr. Connor has forwarded that request to his colleague Dr. Kim Seckler, who heads the undergraduate committee.

One mission of such a youth group (tentatively named the “We Can’t Wait” squad) is to serve as a misinformation gatekeeper for young people. To this end, Steve Litts has reviewed the new book *Mind over Media* and recommends it as a guide for the squad. The YEC also is looking into the possibility of creating a graphics book, that would cover information about voter registration and would be written in youth-oriented language.

We, the YEC, have been quite hamstrung over the last couple of months due to the lack of availability of our teacher friends, whose advice on how to proceed with the We Can’t Wait squad is essential. The YEC has decided not to meet again until after the next meeting with The Civic Engagement Project, when we would discuss this effort with our LCPS collaborators.

—Erika Graf-Webster,  
Youth Engagement Director

## LWV US: People Powered Day of Action, April 29, 2021

As the League of Women Voters enters its 101st year, we know that the League has an important role to play in protecting our democracy. We don't know all of the challenges that lie ahead, but we do know one very critical element requires our collective focus in 2021: redistricting.

On April 29 the League of Women Voters will host a 'People Powered Day of Action' with events around the country to shine a light on the redistricting process. We know that fair maps depend on the input of the public, and no one organization or one person has the solution for fair maps – making collaboration with partner organizations and community leaders necessary for impactful events. All Leagues are encouraged to [sign up and participate](#). [Click here for more information about the day of action](#). We must stand on the side of justice. Read more from our CEO Virginia Kase about [Remaining Nonpartisan in Hyper-partisan Times](#).



—Deborah Ann Tuyny, LWVUS

### Co-President's Message (cont. from page 2)

I have been reminded that League positions are based on study by the League and are generally broad statements. This particular state study began in 2017 with the idea of developing a position that could be used more broadly than by the League in NM. That is, spent nuclear fuel is located in various parts of the country in multiple states, as the result of the generation of electricity using nuclear fuel. Some of this is located adjacent to the reactors and some is in other interim locations that do not involve consolidated storage from multiple plants. NM is, however, a proposed site for storing spent nuclear fuel. That fact is a motivating factor in the discussion of the topic but has also meant that it is a challenge to separate the prospects for a site in NM from the broader topic.

LWVNM's executive committee met a few days after our consensus meeting and decided to release two statements – one is to address the lack of transparency in the NRC hearings on Holtec and one on LWVNM's commentary on the environmental impact statement indicating that we do not support Holtec. When completed, they will be on the LWVNM home page.

As we begin Women's History Month, take a look at the video from the Virtual Women's March which the LWVNM JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Committee was involved in organizing in January: <http://ow.ly/a1yn50Dmpvi>

—Kathy Brook, Co-President

## LWVSNM BOOK CLUB – MARCH 2021

*If you would like to participate, contact Erika at [grafwebster@icloud.com](mailto:grafwebster@icloud.com)*

**NOTE: BOOK CLUB HAS MOVED TO 1<sup>ST</sup> THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH**

Status	Book
<b>March 4, 2:00 pm</b>	<b>Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World</b> 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.
<b>April 1, 2:00 pm</b>	<b>A Promised Land</b> by Barack Obama A riveting, deeply personal account of history in the making—from the president who inspired us to believe in the power of democracy. In the stirring, highly anticipated first volume of his presidential memoirs, Barack Obama tells the story of his improbable odyssey from young man searching for his identity to leader of the free world, describing in strikingly personal detail both his political education and the landmark moments of the first term of his historic presidency—a time of dramatic transformation and turmoil.



## Crystal Massey Discusses Immigration Reform with LWVSNM

Crystal Massey from The American Immigration Council met with LWVSNM members on January 26<sup>th</sup> via Zoom to discuss strategies to work on humane immigration reform. While President Biden has already signed a number of executive orders that have reversed some of the draconian policies imposed by the previous administration, Crystal and her organization are concerned about his past record on immigration and want to make sure that the administration be accountable to address humane immigration reform as a priority.

**Actions taken by President Biden:** 1) Ordered U.S. Immigration agencies to set strict, new limits for arresting and deporting immigrants; 2) Paused construction of the border wall and reversed the Trump administration's ban on travelers from certain majority-Muslim countries; 3) Called for ending all new enrollments in the Migrant Protection Protocols program - MPP (also called The Remain in Mexico Program); 4) Called for ending asylum agreements struck by the Trump administration with Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

**Actions planned:** 1) Give immigrants a pathway to citizenship after an eight-year waiting period; 2) Institute a four-year extension of the DACA program; 3) issue executive orders on asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border, refugee resettlement and the reunification of migrant families; 4) Restore a program that allows certain children in the Northern Triangle to apply for refugee status in the U.S. from their home countries; 5) Roll back a Trump rule that sought to block asylum seekers who pass through another country to the U.S (3<sup>rd</sup> Country Rule); 6) Create a task force to reunite migrant families who were separated at the U.S.-Mexican border; 7) Raise annual refugee intake from the record low 15,000- person ceiling to 125,000.

Crystal emphasized that while Biden's executive orders were positive actions in a number of areas, they clearly fall short in others. For example, there are still close to 70,000 migrants currently in the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) program living in limbo in Mexico border cities with no plan in place. Executive Orders by nature are band-aids, too easily reversible. Congress needs to pass humane immigration reform laws for real long-term solutions to immigration.

### Four priorities rose out of the discussion:

1. Advocate for a plan to address migrants currently in the MPP program.
2. Advocate for the release of those in detention and recommend the use of case managers, and churches and other nonprofits who will help them get to their sponsors (A strategy that has already proven successful).
3. Ask Congress to stop spending money on the border wall and give it instead to private shelters and other programs that help migrants.
4. Continue to work locally to raise awareness of immigration issues.

### LWVSNM Immigration Committee Action Plan:

1. Write letters to Congress (immediate action). We need people to research and write scripts to advocate for those in the MPP program, stop construction on the border wall, and alternatives to detention.
2. Raise public awareness on immigration issues. We need a committee to formulate and carry out an action plan. This may include plans that were tabled because of Covid and writing letters to the editor, radio and TV interviews, social media.

Please email or text Kim Sorensen if you are willing to help: [sorensentweet@gmail.com](mailto:sorensentweet@gmail.com), 541-910-8449.

—Kim Sorensen,  
Immigration Committee

## How Many Are Watching Us and Where Are They From?

### Stats from our Website ([www.lwvsnm.org](http://www.lwvsnm.org))

Our world is increasingly reliant on digital information transmission and LWVSNM has been working on broadening our digital footprint in order to keep up with the times. This is a report about how many visitors (computers) have been looking at our website and where they are from — the A m a z o n W e b S e r v i c e s used by our internet service provider Stormweb.

#### LWVSNM Statistics for the Year 2020

Our website usage has increased monumentally. Instead of measuring pages and hits in the thousands, they are now measured in the millions. Some of the increase reflects the greater complexity of our website, as well as an increase in the number of visitors; the increase in visitors is substantial.

- **Unique visitors: greater than 39,994** – (Counts visitors coming to our site for the first time)
- **Number of visits: 180,167** (Counts all times anyone has accessed our site)
- **Pages: 2,968,800** (Counts how many pages visitors access when they browse our site)
- **Hits: 3,132,225** (Counts the total number of files accessed from our site. It could be documents, photos or even buttons that are clicked.)
- The first two months of 2021 seem to be on a similar pace.



#### Locales of computers (countries) that access our website:

The most frequent is, of course, the United States.

Interestingly, the countries of Canada and Great Britain

together accessed our website over half as often as computers from the United States. Access from other countries then drops off precipitously, with Germany and Russia being next. Access is now more controlled because we have a “security certificate,” the “s” in the [http<sub>s</sub>](http://www.lwvsnm.org) website address.

**How people find us:** Most people found LWVSNM via a direct link (Direct address / Bookmark / Link in email... 99.4%) The rest, .4%, came to us through a Search Engine, usually Google (GoogleHong Kong; Google.com; and the Chinese search engine SoGou.)

**Other interesting statistics:** In 2020, the most common day of the week (pages and hits) to access our website was Tuesday. September and December were the months of most frequent access by unique visitors followed by October, May, April and March. Five o'clock in the evening was the most common time for people to look at our website. The third most common files downloaded was the *Who's Who Directory of Elected Officials*. Other education papers were also in the top ten list as were the Voters Guide and Debate Guidelines. People do not download *The Voter* but apparently read it online.

**Statistics for the more tech-oriented:** The most common operating systems people use to access our website are Windows (65%) followed by Linux (22%). Unknown is third, Macs are fourth with only 2.6%. Phone browsers are next with .5%. Google Chrome is the most popular browser (63.6%) and then Firefox follows (24.9%). People do not seem to like the Microsoft Browser (Internet Explorer) at .8% (It is known to be more insecure than the others).

—Dale Yeo, Voters Services Chair

**DRAFT SUMMARY OF MINUTES**

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

**LWVSNM Board Meeting**

**February 15, 2021, 1:30-3:45 p.m.**

Board Members: Kathy Brook and Eileen VanWie, Co-presidents; Johnnie Aldrich, Secretary; Erika Graf-Webster, Youth Engagement Director; Maryellen Keibel, Membership Director; Jo Galván Nash, PR Director; Kim Sorensen, Immediate Past-president; Sadie Valverde, Treasurer; Dale Yeo and Helen Zagona, Voter Services Directors.

Our meeting began with the presentation of the first annual Making Democracy Work Award recognizing “educators and the City of Las Cruces for developing a program that increases students’ knowledge of the workings of local government.” Instrumental in the development and implementation of this ongoing program were recipients Jamey Rickman, from the City of Las Cruces, and Josie Miller and Jamie Patterson from Las Cruces Public Schools. All received an engraved Nambé tray. [Recorder’s Note: They were further congratulated by the Board of Education in its regular meeting on the following day.]

Sadie’s Treasurer Report noted that expenses included the \$125.00 payment of our membership fee to the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce. The League’s current bank balance is \$1,539.57.

LWVSNM now has 108 members; several new members attended a productive New Member Orientation via Zoom on Saturday, January 30.

REMINDER: At 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, KRWG-TV will feature the placement of the Pomeroy Marker (pictured here) in Pioneer Women’s Park. The program will focus on the contributions of our predecessor, the Woman’s Improvement Association of Las Cruces. For more information about this organization’s significant contributions to the growth and development of our city in the early 20th century. [Consult more information on Wikipedia.](#)



Responding to guidelines from LWV US, Eileen, Kathy, and Member Yvonne Flores, a lawyer, formed an *ad hoc* committee to update our policies and bylaws (printed in the Membership Directory). Of special focus was the need to include references to JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) elements. Suggested changes have been sent to all Board members and will go out to all members before the Annual Meeting.

League members discussed a potential post-card writing campaign to government officials about the need for immigration reform, especially in the treatment of current detainees. Postcards, stamps, addresses of officials, and even a message will be available; Kim’s personal plan is to write one card weekly.

In keeping with Women’s History Month, our March 13 general meeting will feature Martha Burk, political psychologist and co-founder of the Center for Advancement of Public Policy, a research and policy analysis organization in Washington, D.C.

Dale reported from her attendance at the National Convention that LWV US has begun a series of Caucus meetings focusing on rural issues and suggested that perhaps we should investigate further since so much of the area we serve is rural. Further study is needed.

—Minutes submitted by Johnnie R. Aldrich,  
Secretary

*The Voter is pleased to include this new section that features one member of our organization each month. This will help us 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 ... Christina S. Little

Upon moving to Harford County Maryland in 1974, a neighbor encouraged me to join the League. It has made such a difference in my life.

The League introduced me to wonderful, informed people. It gave me a framework for learning about each community. In Harford County, it taught me firsthand that a group of committed individuals could directly impact political decisions. There was a study committee concerned with sewage effluents going into Chesapeake Bay. They walked the sewer lines and discovered that more wastewater was being treated than acknowledged by the authorities. The League went to court, got the support of the Maryland Environment Division, and got a development moratorium in place.

In subsequent years, I joined the League when I moved. It provided the same important support – great people and knowledge of local, state, and national issues. I have been privileged to serve as the President of the Austin League, the Albuquerque League, and the New Mexico League.

During my time in Austin (1980s), I realized that my personal passion is public policy. The League was directly responsible (along with exposure to the atmosphere created by Ann Richards, Molly Ivins, and Barbara Jordan). In Albuquerque I earned a Masters of Public Administration from UNM.



*Christina Little*



When I moved to Las Cruces in 2000, I was determined to pursue professional goals. But I always wanted to keep my strong League connection. From 2000 to 2008, I served as the Voter Editor (including the time that I was also LWVNM president). I worked on statewide Voters Guides, served on the Behavioral Health Committee, and most recently have been a member of the Affordable Housing Committee.

Professionally, I have been able to contribute to the nonprofit community. In the early 2000s, I developed a database of social and community services for Doña Ana Advocates for Children and Families. I later developed a similar database at the United Way. Along the way, I created and have continued to operate the Interagency Council. The group connects most social service nonprofits in Las Cruces. There is a moderated Listserv and a monthly meeting (currently conducted via Zoom). This is my niche, something I can do that nobody else is willing to.

The League still earns my full support – both for the exceptional people involved and all the things that I have learned along the way.

— Chris Little





## OBSERVER REPORTS

### Ngage Meeting • Virtual Leaders Circle

January 26, 2021

Observer: Cathy Burn

Since the last meeting in November, the Leaders Circle Task Force led by Senator Hamblen created a letter to Governor Lujan Grisham and launched a public awareness campaign to urge people to sign onto the letter. As we near 500 signatures it is notable that the LCPS Board resolved to sign onto the letter as an entity. LWVSNM Co-president Kathy Brook signed the letter for our League and Eileen VanWie signed for LWV NM. There have been elected officials, business owners, superintendents and nonprofit leaders who have signed on, as well. The City of Las Cruces passed a resolution urging the Governor to designate funding to improve statewide broadband access in New Mexico.

#### Speaker Rhiannon Samuel, Executive Director of Viente New Mexico

One in five New Mexicans do not have adequate broadband access. Viente has over 300 members with a mission of illustrating how lawmakers are working across the aisle to fix education, crime and economic opportunity issues. Broadband surfaced as a common ground issue that they can put their full force behind.

They have created a scorecard for bipartisan (broadband) bills using the following criteria: funding, facilitating, coordinating, targeting and forecasting. A website to see bills being evaluated is

<https://viantenm.org/proposed-broadband-bills-in-new-mexico>

Our state has a lot of federal funding available. Governor Lujan Grisham is asking that one-half of the capital outlay funding will be allocated to broadband.

They have also developed an easy way for constituents to correspond with their representatives about broadband. [https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/messages/edit?promo\\_id10413](https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/messages/edit?promo_id10413)

#### Speaker Erica Surova, Center for Community Analysis

Erica Surova and her team at the NMSU Center for Community Analysis (ACC) are pleased to present the Doña Ana County Context Report. This compiled report contains local, statewide, and national data across the prenatal to career continuum of education.

##### Context Report Highlights

- A. Access to Child Care and Child Care Assistance Subsidies
- B. Graduation rates and proficiencies
- C. Higher Education Opportunities and Early College
- D. College Enrollment and College Completion
- E. Career needs and opportunities in our community
- F. Mental Health, bullying and facilitating healthy environments
- G. Dual Language and Bilingual Programs.

<https://cca.nmsu.edu/interactive-data-dashboards/access-to-technology-within-nm/>

#### Next Steps

1. Sign the letter to our Governor and share with your network
2. Contact us for assistance on submitting testimonial or writing an op-ed
3. Follow the bills and contact your representative using the link provided by Rhiannon and Viente
4. Read the Education Context Report



## OBSERVER REPORTS

### **LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Meeting**

February 1, 2021

Observer: Kathy Brook

A major item on the agenda was a resolution in support of American democracy and condemning votes that objected to certification of electoral college votes. There was considerable discussion ending in a unanimous vote in support of the resolution.

Other items included a review of the city's audit on which there was good performance and a recent bequest to Branigan Memorial Library which may be used for capital improvements and technology. With respect to the audit, it was noted that PERA is currently underfunded so that in the future the city may be required to make larger contributions.

### **LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Work Session**

February 8, 2021

Observer: Kathy Brook

The work session consisted of a presentation titled "The Great Energy Transition: Implications for Municipalities" by the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET). Over half of the emissions in Las Cruces come from transportation with an additional 38% from buildings about half of which is residential. Use of heat pumps and heat pump water heaters are promising ways to lower greenhouse gases from residences. The city could require that all new city buildings be all-electric, could adopt building codes for new homes, and work to educate developers and builders on options available. At a minimum, new construction can be designed to be ready for all-electric. In the area of transportation, electrification of the city fleet and installation of EV charging stations were discussed.

### **LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Meeting**

February 16, 2021

Observer: Kathy Brook

The meeting began with an extensive update on the city's activities and expenditures related to Covid-19 with reports from a number of different departments.

With respect to issues before the legislature, the Council expressed its support for expansion of the working families tax credit and the low-income comprehensive tax rebate (which has not increased since 1998). In an 8-hour meeting, about a quarter of the time was devoted to discussion of HB4, the civil rights bill, and SB 227 relating to police use of force. The agenda item was a resolution to oppose the two bills. After some discussion of the fact that there were recent amendments to HB4, the language relating to that bill was removed from the resolution and a vote on the resolution to oppose SB 227 failed. Speakers, in addition to members of the Council, included representatives of the ACLU who noted that NM has recently led the nation in lethal officer-involved shootings and that a majority of New Mexicans in a survey support limits on the use of lethal force. Concerns expressed by councilors included the availability of training and funding for training in the event that the bill passes and the need to recognize the dangers police officers face while also seeking that officers be held accountable.

Also at the meeting, the council approved a contract for a police audit, including periodic public reports.



### LAS CRUCES PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION • Regular Meeting

February 16, 2021

Observer: Eileen VanWie

*Members: President Ray Jaramillo, VP Carol Cooper, Secretary Teresa Tenorio, Members Terrie Dallman and Maria Flores.*

The Board recognized Jamie Patterson and Josie Miller for receiving the new *LWVSNM Making Democracy Work Award*. Josie and Jamie thanked the school district, and everyone involved with the successful “Know Your Local Government” project. The Board also recognized Michelle Rodriguez, a Pre-K teacher who is successfully using online learning with the very young students by using hand-on activities and play. The children received activity packets that included art supplies. With the online process there has been increased collaboration between families and teachers, which has contributed to the success.

Representatives of the NEA LC (teachers/certified staff) and CSEC LC (classified staff) shared the desire to return to school, but it must be done with a primary concern for safety of students, families, and employees. The head of CSEC stressed the desire for the community to understand these concerns. Adelaide, who represented the Student Advisory Council, said students want the Board to be consistent and transparent about decisions for re-entry to buildings.

Two high school students —Lauren and Amelia — requested the Board reinstate the 24/7 Campaign, a tobacco-free policy. In 2014 the LCPS had this policy and in 2019 the policy was replaced, which did not focus on a tobacco free environment.

The “building re-entry” plans were described. With the loss of five educators to COVID-19, it’s understandable that teachers and staff have concerns about returning. More than half are being vaccinated, which makes them feel more comfortable returning to in-person classes. Building inspections by fire marshals are being completed and Department of Health guidelines are being used. Students and staff will receive “wellness” checks.

Students with special needs are in school buildings now and more will be returning. Students were surveyed about returning to high schools and they will be reopening at 50% capacity on February 22, with options for students to choose: 1) remain online, 2) remain online with face-to-face as needed, 3) hybrid model of two full days in cohort classes at school. With option #3, students will stay in a room and teachers (often working in teams) will move from class to class. High school hybrid models make students eligible for in-person athletics.

The middle and elementary schools have used similar guidelines as the high schools beginning on March 1. Middle school students are asked to bring their devices so teachers may assist with issues they experience. Hybrid classes in the elementary schools have grades 3-5 in the morning and PK-2 grades in the afternoon. At all schools, students will have “grab-and-go” breakfasts and lunches. The plan starts small but has a big impact. The Administration hopes to prevent COVID cases in schools resulting in having to close them.

### *Our Condolences ...*

The League extends its heartfelt condolences to the Trujillo and Apodaca families over the passing of **Dr. Karen Trujillo**, superintendent of the Las Cruces Public Schools. LCPS is a great community partner with the League. Under Karen’s leadership, our students have received valuable information about Democracy, voting rights, civic engagement, and so much more. Karen’s love of learning, kindness and generous spirit will be missed tremendously throughout our community and state.



# Treasurer's Report

Provided by Sadie Valverde, Treasurer

## FEBRUARY 2020

Date	Description	Deposit/Credit	Payments/Debits	Balance
12-23-20	Citizen's Bank Balance			<b>\$3,630.73</b>
	<b>DEPOSITS</b>			
	New Member Dues (PayPal)	\$ 63.27		
	Donation – Voters Guide	\$ 50.00		
	Donation – Youth Engagement	\$ 25.00		
	<i>Subtotal Deposits</i>	<b>\$138.27</b>		
	<i>Subtotal Balance</i>			<b>\$3769.00</b>
	<b>EXPENSES</b>			
12-30-20	Check #1059 – Consumer Cellular		\$ 19.43	
01-19-21	Check #1060 – Green Chamber Membership 1 year		\$125.00	
	<i>Subtotal Expenses</i>		<b>\$144.43</b>	
01-22-21	<b>CURRENT SUBTOTAL BALANCE</b>			<b>\$3,624.57</b>
	<b>EARMARKED FUNDS</b>			
2020	-Donations (Money has been spent \$3,939.20)		\$00.00	
	-Diversity Fund \$935.00			
	-Immigration Study Fund \$625.00			
	-Youth Engagement \$525.00			
	<i>SUBTOTAL Diversity, Immigration &amp; Youth funds</i>			\$2,085.00
	<b>IN-KIND DONATIONS</b>			
01-22-21	<b>GRAND TOTAL BALANCE</b>			<b>\$1,539.57</b>