

the VOTER

AUGUST 2022

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Co-Presidents' Messages

Dear LWVSNM Members,

While actions for the LWVSNM have been minimal as intended during July, it was good to see representation from our League at the *Get Out the Vote* webinar provided by the New Mexico League on July 20. Melissa Marks, Community Organizer for the LWV of New Jersey, shared actions and ideas for providing outreach to potential voters this fall.



Eileen VanWie

While New Jersey, with 35 local Leagues, is very different from New Mexico, many of the ideas could work in our state as well. Check out their voter engagement toolkit on the website at <https://www.lwvnj.org/vote>. Our state League also has helpful voter information on the website: <https://www.lwvnm.org/information.html>

A first step would be to establish goals for the general election (e.g., reach out to youth, voters who support worker rights, climate justice, abortion). Some actions taken in New Jersey are sending many short email messages with colorful specific information about voting, conducting postcard campaigns using voter data lists, canvassing neighborhoods with door hangers, and sending text messages to selected voters. The GOTV actions are fun and engaging. To do them, we would need to purchase Voter Data Information from the NM Secretary of State.

<https://www.sos.state.nm.us/voting-and-elections/data-and-maps/voter-data-information/>

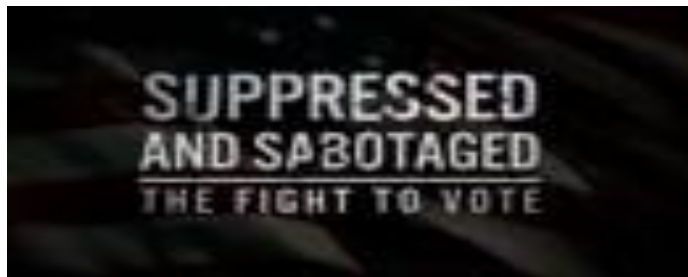
Because the *NM Listens* project has been successful in reaching out to diverse groups and communities to strengthen our democracy and expand civic engagement, the LWVNM President Hannah Burling has invited a proposal from the State Leadership Team to make it a sanctioned ongoing project of the LWVNM. The logo is trademarked by

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August Meeting Will Address Voter Suppression

Welcome back! The August LWVSNM meeting will feature a showing of *Suppressed and Sabotaged, The Fight to Vote*. Directed by Robert Greenwald (Director of *Outfoxed*, *Walmart: The High Cost of Low Price*, and *Making A Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA*) it is a powerful documentary about the growing threat of voter suppression and election sabotage to our upcoming midterm elections.

You will get an email inviting you to the meeting to be held on **Saturday, Aug. 13** beginning at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.



In 2021, 19 states passed 34 new voter laws following the “Big Lie” of the 2020 election. The film focuses on this recent wave of voter suppression and subversion laws being enacted in states, and how the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial race between Stacey Abrams and Brian Kemp provides a blueprint for today’s voter suppression laws across the country.

This film will set the stage for the League’s efforts in the upcoming mid-term elections. *Suppressed and Sabotaged* is a call to action against the calculated attacks intended to suppress the right to vote, of people of color, in America. Join your fellow League members for this thought-provoking film and the discussion to follow. The League’s mission has never been clearer. Get ready to get to work.

— Laura Castille, Vice President

Co-Presidents' Messages (cont.)

the LWVNM. With the new state 501 (c) 3 Education Fund, funding will be sought for the project.

I was glad to hear that the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was added to the LWVUS program during the Convention in June. With recent US Supreme Court actions overturning Roe v. Wade and threatening other human rights, the ERA can be helpful. Our state ERA has been used as the basis of the NM Supreme Court decisions guaranteeing marriage equality, equal pay, property rights, and fair labor conditions. New Mexico needs to codify abortion protections with a state statute and then preserve the protections in the NM Constitution.

The *Weekend Reading on Women's Representation* by *MS Magazine* for July 15, 2022, suggests that Ranked-Choice Voting eliminates gerrymandering, ensures partisan fairness, and gives women a better chance of winning elections. <https://msmagazine.com/2022/07/15/elect-women-politics-eliminate-partisan-gerrymandering/>

As August begins, let's work on a plan and take actions to get out the vote.

*With warm regards,
Eileen VanWie, Co-President*



Hello League Members,

While there were no board meetings and no general meetings in July, League members have been engaged in a variety of activities since the publication of the last Voter. We had good participation in the general meeting on education in June and many have provided support to the effort to include attainable housing as a component of the City of Las Cruces proposed bond issue (on the ballot in November).

I attended the naturalization ceremony at which 178 new citizens from 23 countries were welcomed. Voter registration agents, organized by Karena and Stewart Oberman, were there to provide opportunities for them to become voters. At the same time, many, if not all of us, have been trying to absorb the news from the Supreme Court in the Dobbs decision and the ongoing revelations from the January 6 House Select Committee.

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Upcoming Calendar Events

AUGUST 2022

Aug. 7-National Sisters' Day & Purple Heart Day;
Aug. 9-National Book Lovers' Day; Aug. 11-Nat'l Son & Daughter Day; Aug. 21-Senior Citizens' Day

Aug. 1, Mon.: **Short Board Meeting**, Noon, Zoom

Aug. 3, Wed.: **Miguel Trujillo Day**, celebrated at ABQ Isleta Resort & Casino, 3-7pm, Ballroom C

Aug. 3, Wed.: **Cancelled** – LWV Affordable Housing Committee**

Aug. 13, Sat.: **General Meeting**, 2pm, via Zoom

Aug. 15, Mon.: **Board Meeting**, 5:00 p.m., via Zoom

Aug. 25, Thurs.: **SNM Women's Suffrage Alliance Voter Event**, noon, Women's Intercultural Center, Anthony

Aug. 26, Fri.: **Women's Equality Day**



SEPTEMBER 2022

Sept. 5, Mon: **Labor Day Holiday**

Sept. 5, Mon: **Short Board Meeting**, noon, via Zoom

Sept. 7, Wed.: **LWV Affordable Housing Committee, 3:30 p.m.; Contact [Beth Bardwell](#) for more info. (*August meeting cancelled due to members attending Aug. 1 City Council meeting*)

2022/23 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO BOARD:

Eileen VanWie & Kathy Brook – Co-Presidents

Laura Castille – Vice President

Edwina Jaramillo – Secretary

Mary Flynn – Treasurer

**Dale Yeo & Catherine Cochrane – Voter Services
Co-Directors**

Kathe Kanim – Youth Engagement Director

Johnnie R. Aldrich – Interim Membership Director

**Jo Galván Nash – Public Relations Director & VOTER
Editor**

**Shirley Armstrong, Chair, Ruth Jaure & Mary Flynn -
Nominating Committee**

LWVSNM

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In late June we learned that our application for a grant from El Paso Electric was successful. LWV Board Director Kathe Kanim and I were happy to attend the awards presentation ceremony in El Paso on July 7. The award of \$1,500 supports the cost of our printed voter guides, which are popular throughout the community.



Co-President Kathy Brook was the primary author of the 2022 grant. It's the second year LWVUSNM has received the funds from EPEC.

Also on this page are reports on the recent LWV national convention held recently in a hybrid format from Denver and online. Please also read on page 5 an update on the criminal justice concurrence.

—Kathy Brook, Co-President

Fight for Attainable Housing

Several LWV members have spent time this summer on getting Affordable/Attainable Housing on the City November GO bond election ballot. LWV members joined the Las Cruces Affordable Housing Coalition which has made several presentations to the City Council about the need for attainable housing in Las Cruces. The group has advocated for the GO ballot to place \$6 million into the city's Housing Trust Fund for future land acquisition and construction. By the time you read this month's newsletter, it's possible the Council will have made its final decision. They will tentatively vote on the election items during the August 1 City Council meeting.

Should the Council include funds for housing, LWV will want to spread awareness as to how the monies will be spent. As always, the League will help educate voters before they head to the polls.

Anyone who wants to join this effort should reach out to [Beth Bardwell](#), the LWV Housing Committee Chair, or to [Jo Galván Nash](#), who has experience in general obligation bond elections. For more information about the upcoming GO Bond, [click here](#).

—Jo Galván Nash

Several decades ago, I had the good fortune to attend several national conventions and councils and found them to be very exhilarating experiences. In 2020, the convention was quickly converted to a virtual event and this year it was a hybrid. I attended online and found it to be a good experience. Many delegates were in Denver but over half attended electronically.

President Deborah Turner was elected for a second term; in her address to the group, she called for a “moonshot” project in support of abolishing the Electoral College. She described the League as being at the early stages of this work but noted the effort will begin this fiscal year, after the midterm elections.

Program: The national board recommended the continuation of the Making Democracy Work Campaign (Voting Rights, Improved Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, Redistricting) and recommended concurrence with the California position on criminal justice and the New York position updating the health care position. These were approved by the delegates. In addition, the delegates approved concurrence with the Connecticut position on digital equity. Other actions included elevation of effort in support of the Equal Rights Amendment and in-person delegates joined a march to the Colorado Capitol in protest of the Supreme Court's decision concerning abortion. LWVNM representatives in Denver reported that the League presence at the rally (on the day that the Dobbs decision was announced) doubled the size of the group.

Administrative Issues: LWV has been working on a structural transformation in recent years, a goal of which is to make it easier for people to join the League, with larger membership being a major factor in increasing our impact. At the convention, delegates approved a structure that will allow people to join wherever they come across the League and to contribute at a suggested level or whatever other level they are comfortable with. That is, there will no longer be designations such as second household member and student member. The individual contributions will be split between the local, state, and national Leagues with national taking no more than one third. For those familiar with the details of League membership, there will no longer be per member payments that the local League makes to state and national.

For more complete details on the meeting, [click here](#). For regular updates from the national League, sign up [here](#).

—Kathy Brook

Celebrating Women's Equality Day

The right to vote, which is the cornerstone of democracy, belongs to all Americans. Yet, we should always remember the path that many individuals — many women — had to take to get us where we are today. August 26th is Women's Equality Day and on that day (or close to it), we can find ways to celebrate and/or recognize the achievements of previous and current women's rights activists.

Several members of the LWV of Southern NM will spend Thursday, August 25th with members of the SNM Women's Suffrage Alliance and meet in Anthony at the [Women's Intercultural Center](#). They will meet during the lunch hour for a Voter Event with community residents. One of the League's interests is to get more residents in the southern end of our county to vote. If you would like to get involved with this event, [contact Co-President Eileen VanWie](#) right away.

The Center, located at 303 Lincoln Street in Anthony, is a non-profit organization that provides classes, training, and workshops in a variety of areas, hosts meetings and much more. The women who go to the center work

with volunteers and "are provided with the tools and resources needed for them to move on to attain technical skills, higher education, and/or employment," according to their website.

Here are some other ways how you can celebrate Women's Equality Day, which was established by Congress in 1971:

- Support women-owned companies. How about going to lunch or shopping at a locally owned business owned by a woman?
- Organize a collection drive for a program that supports women. The drive could include gift cards, feminine products, underwear, diapers, food supplies, socks, deodorant, etc.
- Volunteer at a charity or make a donation to one that supports women's empowerment.
- Update your own bookshelf. Education and awareness are good ways to celebrate equal rights, and nothing beats reading some great feminist authors.

- Go onto the league's social media platforms and give a Shout-Out to the women suffragists and to all women who continue to strive for equality. (See below)



Willing to Volunteer? Here's How:

If you've been wanting to volunteer for an LWVSNM activity, here's something to consider. Dale Yeo, co-director of voter services, is looking for help to contact candidates who will appear on the November 8, 2022 election ballot. The candidates will be reminded about the Vote411 website that contains their answers to the LWV candidate questions which will appear online and in the locally printed LWVSNM Voters' Guide.

Many of the candidates already answered questions for the Primary Election but they now have an opportunity to revise their answers. Plus, those running who did not previously provide answers now have the chance to do so. We especially would like to get answers from all the Magistrate Court Judge candidates, even if they do not have opponents. [Contact Dale](#) right away if you can help her with this important activity.

And don't forget, LWV wants to continue to inform our community about the Vote411 website and all the information it contains for voters or for those wanting to register to vote. (Click on the logo above.)



Don't Forget to Follow the League:



[Instagram:](#)

[@lwvsnm](#)

[Facebook:](#)

[lwvsnm](#)



Miguel Trujillo Impacted the Voting Rights of Indigenous People

According to the non-profit news organization ICT (Indian Country Today), in 1948 these were the final words on the New Mexico state constitution — “and Indians not taxed”. Journalist Kolby KickingWoman wrote that this statement made it clear who was prohibited from voting. Despite being granted citizenship in 1924, many Native Americans were disenfranchised for decades. A World War II Marine veteran and Isleta Pueblo man by the name of Miguel Trujillo challenged that notion and filed a lawsuit against the county registrar.



KickingWoman reports that on Aug. 3, 1948, three Santa Fe judges ruled in favor of Trujillo and he was then allowed to vote, becoming the first Native to do so in the state. The date of his triumphant win continues to be celebrated in his honor as **Miguel Trujillo Day**.

[Read here about who posthumously honored Mr. Trujillo with the Margaret Chase Smith American Democracy Award for Political Courage](#)

And, as you see in the calendar of events on page 2, there will be a celebration in his honor at the Isleta Resort in Albuquerque.

Update on Criminal Justice Position

As you may recall, we met in January to discuss a possible concurrence by LWVNM with the California position on criminal justice. Our speakers were County Manager (and former District Judge) Fernando Macias, NMSU Professor Dennis Giever, and Sheriff Kim Stewart. Based on feedback from that meeting, we provided input to LWVNM, and the state board voted to concur with the California position. Since then, a subcommittee of the board has been working to integrate the California position into New Mexico’s existing position on the administration of justice (which includes topics such as selection of judges, juvenile justice, and the death penalty). That work is still in progress but should be completed soon.

In the meantime, the delegates at the LWVUS convention last month voted to concur with the California position. Advantages of having the position at the national level include the statement of objectives for the criminal justice system and the policing component of the position (which was not previously available to us at the national, state, or local level) for use in advocacy. The California position appears [here](#).

—Kathy Brook

LET’S READ! Keeping Us Updated

Here are some interesting articles that have been passed along by League members and by the NM League:

1. “[Misinformation is Eroding the Public’s Confidence in Democracy](#)” – published by the Brookings Institute, a non-profit public policy organization based in Washington, DC.
2. Let’s all get familiar with these three Constitutional Amendments that will appear on the November General Election ballot. [Click here](#) to get to the LWVSNM home page to read the pros and cons. (Thanks to Dale Yeo for passing this our way.)
3. Here’s something for your office – a list of the General Election candidates, both statewide and those within Doña Ana County. [Click here to our website](#). The list is on the home page.
4. Thanks to Richard Mason of LWVNM, there is an easy, quick read about [NM taxes and budget](#). The state may undergo tax reform in the next Legislative Session. The information is through the NM Fairness Project, led by the non-partisan agency NM Voices for Children.

Board Meeting Monday, June 20, 2022
Zoom Conference Online – 5:07-7:01 PM

LWV Mission – Empowering Voters. Strengthening Democracy.

LWV Vision – We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

LWV Value – We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

Draft Minutes

Board members: Johnnie Aldrich (Membership Director), Kathy Brook (Co-President), Laura Castille (Vice President), Catherine Cochran (Voter Services Co-Director), Mary Flynn (Treasurer)(abs), Edwina Jaramillo (Secretary), Kathe Kanim (Youth Engagement Director), Jo Galván Nash (Public Relations Director), Eileen VanWie (Co-President), Dale Yeo (Voter Services Co-Director)

Meeting Administration:

1. Call to Order and Welcome: K. Brook called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.
2. ***The LWVSNM Board makes decisions based on Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:***
K. Brook reminded the Board about the League’s commitment to JEDI principles.
3. Changes to Agenda
VanWie requested the following additions to the agenda:
 - status of the El Paso Electric grant
 - selling of yard signs for profit (to be discussed under Voter Services)
 - election integrity issues in 16 states
 - reaching out to Otero County Clerk regarding election certificationYeo also requested an addition to the agenda: brainstorming for Vote411
A motion was made to add the above topics to the agenda and seconded by J. Aldrich. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Conflict of Interest Inquiry: Does any member of the LWVSNM Board of Directors have any known conflict of interest with any item on the agenda? None
5. Minutes from May 2 and 16 Board meetings
May 2, 2022 Minutes: A motion was made by E. VanWie to approve the 5/2/22 minutes and seconded by D. Yeo. The motion carried unanimously.
May 16, 2022 Minutes: A motion was made by J. Aldrich to approve the 5/16/22 minutes and seconded by J. Galván Nash. The motion carried unanimously.
6. Treasurer’s Report May 2022
J. Aldrich informed the Board that the League is paying \$24/year to our internet service provider for two domain names to keep the “old” internet name (LWVGLC) connected to the League’s new internet name (LWVSNM). After much discussion including internet best practices, a motion was made by D. Yeo to discontinue paying the internet provider for the LWVGLC domain name. The motion was seconded by E. VanWie; the motion carried unanimously.

There were several questions raised re the amount shown on the Treasurer’s Report for the Committed Funds, the Diversity Fund, and the Social Media Fund. The discussion also included whether the items

BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

shown in the Committed Funds category should be approved by the Board (as outlays may affect the Board-approved budget), and whether member donations must be committed to only those funds/programs identified by the member and whether those identified funds/programs were being tracked. The discussion was tabled to allow further research and discussion with the League treasurer who is absent.

7. Budget Review Periodically (August, November, February)

Brook noted the Board had previously discussed periodic review of the budget and suggests August, November, and February for review this year. The discussion was tabled to allow more time for further discussion.

Discussion and Action:

1. Debrief Visioning Lab and Documents (Board Handbook)

VanWie noted the Board received a summary of the Visioning Lab held on June 4, 2022, which reflects the Board's priorities for 2022-2023. The Board reviewed three categories: Transition of Power, Website Needs, and Outreach to make corrections.

Action Items:

- the Board agreed, by the next Board meeting in August, to review their position roles online and provide revisions as needed including an update to their day-to-day process in the Activity Schedule.
- the Board agreed to look at the Los Alamos website to see if the website format appeals/serves League needs and whether to recommend using the same service provider.
- Board members agreed to review the Visioning Lab summary and provide any additional comments/revisions to the Board in one week.

VanWie informed the board that she had attended an event and encountered the mayor of Sunland Park who informed that the number of registered voters "was not good." E. VanWie reiterated the need for a League voter registration table in Sunland Park

2. August General Meeting

Castille recommended showing the video, "*Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight to Vote*" at the August 2022 meeting since not many LWVSNM members saw it when the state League showed it. She also recommended developing and posing questions to inspire discussion on what the League could do. **Action Item:** L. Castille will develop questions and send to the Board for comments/ approval. The gun safety topic will be rescheduled for the September general meeting.

3. Records Management Tool

The Board reviewed a document that outlined the LWVSNM materials to be archived on June 23, 2022. The Board agreed to also include the League's Handbook and Membership Directory 2021-2022 minus membership personally identifiable information (PII). **Action Item:** J. Galván Nash will search for an electronic copy of the Handbook to accomplish the PII removal.

4. Membership/Report from New Member Orientation

Aldrich reported that three new members attended the New Member Orientation.

Action Item: J. Aldrich will contact new members who did not attend the orientation. The League currently has 107 members, however, only 39 members have paid their 2022 membership dues. M. Flynn has drafted a letter that reminds members that dues are up for renewal. If dues are not received by September then a postcard will also be sent. It was recommended that when members fail to pay dues on time that payment should include a prorated amount, e.g., if six months behind, member should pay the \$65 annual fee *plus* \$32.50. Also recommended was a deadline date of December 31st to pay dues.

Additional discussion included possible revision of the membership form re electronic collection of member interests and whether it should be a fillable online form. **Action Item:** J. Aldrich will work on revising the membership form.

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BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

VanWie indicated that she plans to send a letter to the membership requesting volunteers for the three committees selected by the Board for position revision.

5. Special Projects

- a. SNM Women's Suffrage Alliance: E. VanWie reported there was no additional information re the SNM Women's Suffrage Alliance potluck event at the Women's Intercultural Center on August 25, 2022.
- b. NM Listens: E. VanWie indicated the NM Listens sessions with David Nunez's class at Organ Mountain High School are completed.
- c. E. VanWie reported that the facilitators for SNM Listens decided to work with adult groups in Zoom listening sessions with nonpartisan partners (e.g., Green Chamber, etc.) to be held on August 20 and September 3, 2022 from 2:00-3:30 p.m.
- d. E. VanWie also reported that another idea discussed by the facilitators for SNM Listens was a table (separate from the League's voter registration table) for conversations with passersby at the Farmers and Crafts Market about their views on how democracy is working in our country.

6. Affordable Housing Update

J. Galván Nash indicated that the Affordable Housing Committee made a presentation at the last city council meeting. The Affordable Housing Committee also held a meeting where concern was expressed over the negative press on the Desert Hope Apartments (that provide affordable units to formerly homeless tenants). The Committee is also discussing other strategies how the League can support local affordable housing.

7. Voter Services Committee Plans

Yeo reported that the Committee will hold meetings with the Bulletin and Camino Real Media re separate RFPs (requests for proposal) submitted to them by the League for publishing the Voter Guide in English and Spanish, respectively. After much discussion it was recommended that at these meetings the League representative should ask for an estimate from the Bulletin based on last year's publication in a 9-11 font, in color, by an August 1st deadline that includes distribution. The second estimate (Camino Real Media) would be the same to include an estimate for translation into Spanish. Once the estimates are received the Board can make printing decisions.

8. Brainstorming for VOTE411

Yeo indicated that the August League candidate questionnaire will include the same questions as the last iteration. Responses to the questionnaire by winners of recent elections would remain on the VOTE411 website and the Voter Guide. The Board agreed that an additional question regarding gun safety should be included on the August questionnaire. A subcommittee comprised of D. Yeo, E. VanWie, L. Castille, and E. Jaramillo will work on the additional question. The League's national position on gun safety might be useful for wording of the question.

9. Yard Signs for Profit

VanWie noted that the U.S. League is selling VOTE411 yard signs and asked the Board if LWVSNM could sell yard signs as a fundraiser, as well. The question was tabled after questions were raised re concerns about the League's 501c(3) status and tax concerns.

10. Status of the El Paso Electric Grant

VanWie informed the Board that LWVSNM was granted \$1,500 from El Paso Electric for publication of the Voters' Guide. *After Meeting Note:* El Paso Electric is honoring awardees of their 2022 Community Partner Program at an awards presentation on July 7, 2022, where two LWVSNM member's will represent the League.

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BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

11. Otero County and Election Integrity

VanWie noted that given the nation’s polarization and the focus on 16 states at the upcoming mid-term election, she is encouraging volunteers from the League as election watchers.

Also discussed was a question from a state Board member asking if the LWVSNM plans to send a letter of support to the Otero County Clerk for a job well done. After much discussion regarding appropriateness and goal of such a letter, it was suggested that a thank-you note would be appropriate.

12. Other – Bonnie Burn Scholarship at LCPS

There was a reminder in the May Voter to those interested in donating to the Bonnie Burn Scholarship.

Next Board Meeting Dates:

July – No meetings

Monday, August 1, Noon-1:00 p.m.

Other Meetings:

July – No meetings

Wednesday, August 3, Miguel Trujillo Day in New Mexico

Saturday, August 13, 2:00-4:00 pm, General Meeting

Thursday, August 25, Noon, SNM Women’s Suffrage Alliance Voter Event,
Women’s Intercultural Center, Anthony

Adjournment: at 7:01 p.m.

—Minutes by Edwina Jaramillo

LWVSNM Book Club – September 2022

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

BOOK CLUB MEETINGS ARE ON 1ST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

Status/Added	Book
Books Selected for Upcoming Meetings	
August 4	CANCELLED – Enjoy your summer!
September 1 Moderator: Erika	Dignity in a Digital Age by Congressman Ro Khanna (D, CA) Ro Khanna represents one of the wealthiest districts in America, a chunk of Silicon Valley that is home to tech behemoths like Apple and Intel, yet he was a co-chair of Bernie Sanders’ 2020 campaign. His new book embodies those complexities. With manifesto-like ambition, he proposes sweeping fixes for what, in his view, ails America: too much wealth concentrated in too few hands, and too many digital jobs crowded into a handful of tech hubs. He wants to decentralize those opportunities so that places like Paintsville, Ky., or Jefferson, Iowa, can also thrive. He offers a revolutionary roadmap to facing America’s digital divide, offering greater economic prosperity to all. In Khanna’s vision, “just as people can move to technology, technology can move to people.”
October 6 Moderator: Vicki	Davos Man: How the Billionaires Devoured the World by Peter S. Goodman The <i>NY Times</i> ’s Global Economics Correspondent masterfully reveals how billionaires’ systematic plunder of the world—brazenly accelerated during the pandemic—has transformed 21st-century life and dangerously destabilized democracy. Drawing on decades of experience covering the global economy, award-winning journalist Peter S. Goodman profiles five representative “Davos Men”—members of the billionaire class—chronicling how their shocking exploitation of the global pandemic has hastened a fifty-year trend of wealth centralization.



LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Work Session

June 27, 2022

Observer: Kathy Brook

Presentations covered the plans for the upcoming bond issue to be on the November ballot and an update on existing GO bond projects. League members Beth Bardwell and Rosa Morales and other members of the community spoke in support of an attainable housing component of the bond issue. As the Council members struggled to agree on the amounts of funding for different projects, Jo Galván Nash provided advice on working with a rubric and considering phasing of projects.

LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Meeting

July 5, 2022

Observer: Kathy Brook

Topics included a presentation on the city's external audit presentation. Action items included approval of budget adjustments for compliance and alignment purposes (not new programs) for 2021-22 and 2022-2023 and approval of grant awards. The Council also approved an agreement with Mesilla Valley Community of Hope to expand the Mano y Mano day labor program; the expansion will extend services and provide clean up. Financial support comes from the Telshor Fund.

Las Cruces City Council Work Session

LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Work Session

July 11, 2022

Observer: Kathy Brook

Oversight Committee Initial Presentation with particular attention to the Inspector General position. Assists the city's goal of accountability in government. The three voting members of the Committee are required to be residents of the city. The Inspector General Position is ready for posting.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC) • Regular Meeting

July 12, 2022

Observer: Jo Galván Nash

All Commissioners were in attendance, as was County Manager Fernando Macias.

The meeting of the County Commission brought attention to area residents who believe the local elections, and processes by the NM Secretary of State, are flawed in some way. Numerous individuals spoke during public input citing a myriad of complaints and concerns that they believe should be addressed by the County Commission. During public comment commissioners do not engage in discussion and only listen to the public's viewpoints.

—continued

BOCC (cont.)

Among the comments made were:

- local elections are not secure and presenting photo IDs and signatures should be required;
- voting by mail, unsupervised ballot drop-boxes, and extended times to vote are making elections less secure;
- paper ballots and hand-counted ballots should be returned as standard practice;
- there are not enough election observers present;
- all Dominion voting machines in DAC should be removed. *[NOTE: Dominion Voting has answered many questions about their election machines and has a website that counters the claims being made in the US. [Click here to see Dominion's side of the story.](#)]*

Several people also called for the commission to have an audit on the county's election process to review weaknesses and internal controls. There were requests to have these issues addressed at a future BOCC meeting.

"It's the Board of County Commission's responsibility to make sure my vote gets counted and gets counted correctly," said one voter.

Taking the reverse perspective, a resident said she has never had a problem with voting in DAC and believes the voting process is very transparent. She also said she sees nothing wrong with the voting machines. Others agreed that these are simply scare tactics and are not true statements being made locally and around the nation. Another voter said the allegations of fraud have been thrown out by many federal courts and said there is no evidence of corruption. He added that the baseless accusations are an attempt to intimidate the County Commission.

The Commission gave no indication that this subject would be included on a future Board meeting nor that an investigation would be forthcoming.

LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Meeting

July 18, 2022

Observer: Kathy Brook

Topics included acceptance of the preliminary quarterly financial report which will be submitted to the state, and approval of master plans for Gomez, Frenger, and Branigan Parks. The parks presentation also provided information about potential funding sources for park improvements

Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Mary Flynn, Treasurer

JULY 2022

League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico Treasurer Report - July 2022

DATE	DESCRIPTION	DETAIL	AMOUNT
July 22, 2022	PREVIOUS BALANCE	PREVIOUS BALANCE	\$8,243.85
June 22, 2022	NEW DEPOSIT	Bank Deposit	\$100.00
July 1, 2022	NEW EXPENSES	Consumer Cellular - Check #1121	\$20.51
		Osteen Media Group	\$189.33
July 20, 2022	ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	El Paso Electric Grant	\$1,500.00
July 20, 2022	FUNDS ON HAND		\$9,634.01
July 20, 2022	COMMITTED FUNDS	Diversity Fund	\$415.00
July 20, 2022		Youth Engagement Fund	\$625.00
July 20, 2022		Social Media Fund	\$288.67
July 20, 2022		New Mexico Listens Project	\$250.00
July 20, 2022	TOTAL COMMITTED FUNDS		\$1,578.67
July 20, 2022	AVAILABLE BALANCE		\$8,055.34

REMINDER:

If you have not done so yet, please pay your
2022/2023 membership dues.
\$65 per person; \$32.50 for 2nd household member.
Pay online (www.lwvsnm.org) or mail your check to:
LWVSNM, P.O. Box 15142,
Las Cruces, NM 88004

Dues are tax-deductible.

Questions? [Contact Treasurer Mary Flynn](#)

THANK YOU!