



NEWS RELEASE

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NOMINATIONS ENCOURAGED FOR 2023 DEMOCRACY AWARD

LAS CRUCES---The League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico (LWVSNM) is accepting nominations for its 3rd annual Making Democracy Work Award. The award is given in February of each year to recognize outstanding contributions by residents who have worked to strengthening democracy through activities, volunteerism, educational awareness, or projects that are aimed at supporting representative democracy in the U.S., said the LWVSNM co-presidents.

“We’ve had a democratic form of government for almost 250 years, but we can’t take it for granted,” said Kathy Brook, LWVSNM co-president. “The award recognizes those who work to improve the way it functions.”

Nominations are being accepted through January 27, 2023. Nominations can be for an individual or a small group of individuals who worked together as a team on a project, cause, or volunteer activity, Brook said. The winner or winners will be recognized by the local League and will receive a \$250. cash prize. If a group is selected for the honor, the participants will share the prize. The nominee and the nominator must both reside within one of the following Southern New Mexico counties: Doña Ana, Grant, Luna, Otero, Hidalgo, Sierra, Eddy, or Lea.

The award nomination form, located on the League’s website (www.lwvsnm.org), can be downloaded, filled out and sent via email to lwvsnm@gmail.com or in the mail to LWVSNM, P.O. Box 15142, Las Cruces, NM 88004. Current members of the League are not eligible for the award.

The nomination form not only requires a description of how someone has been strengthening our democracy, but it also includes an explanation of how the nominee incorporated the principles of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI), which are central principles adopted by the League.

“League members seek to better understand the diverse demographic and cultural components of our U.S. and to recognize projects that reinforce constituents in Southern New Mexico,” said Eileen VanWie, co-president.

The 2023 winner(s) will be selected by the Board of Directors based on weighted criteria. It will be announced by February 14, the anniversary date of the creation of the League of Women Voters in 1920.

The 2022 winner was Mary Carter, Executive Director of the Women’s Intercultural Center, located in Anthony, NM. Along with a variety of classroom activities, Carter’s work focuses on a citizenship program, voter engagement, and helping residents learn about the U.S. democratic process for becoming naturalized citizens.

The first-year winners in 2021 were Jamie Patterson and Josie Miller, academic content specialists from the Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS), and Jamey Rickman, former community engagement manager for the City of Las Cruces. The three were instrumental in the success of the project “Know Your Local Government” which involved area high school students in research, discussions and presentations about government, policy and civic engagement.

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) began the “Making Democracy Work” campaign in the late 1990s, to maintain the strength of our representative democracy in the hands of the people at every level of government. It focused on voter participation, campaign finance reform, diversity of representation, civic education and knowledge, and civic participation.

For more information about the LWVSNM, see <https://www.lwvsnm.org/> or call 575-524-VOTE (8683).

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