

# the VOTER

DECEMBER 2022  
Volume 54, Issue 7



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## Co-Presidents' Messages

Dear League Members,

One of the issues that is getting attention from good government groups in New Mexico is modernization of the legislature with discussions about pay for legislators and extending the legislative session – both of which would require Constitutional amendments. There are also discussions about supporting legislators with more staff. These topics were considered by the Courts, Corrections, and Justice Interim Committee on the Nov. 21, 2022. While I haven't yet viewed the [video](#), a number of people have praised the quality of the session so you might want to take a look.



Kathy Brook

Kathe Kanim and I joined forces in attending the Doña Ana County Commission's canvass of the 2022 general election vote. In the public input portion of the meeting comments were offered in support of election workers and the successful administration of election procedures, including from League member Jennifer Kreie who had served as a challenger. There were also some complaints about delays in opening the polls at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, insufficient printer ink at Good Samaritan Village, and cramped quarters at Sonoma Elementary.

Best wishes for a peaceful holiday season,

— Kathy

On page 3 of *The Voter*, see Eileen's message about LWVSNM's election watchers. Her Co-President report in on the next page.



## December Meeting: Let's Socialize and Discuss Potential Legislation

This year's Legislative conversation with our area lawmakers will have a more festive twist. The annual get-together will be Saturday, Dec. 3 at 2:00 p.m. at the Sunset Grill at Sonoma Ranch Golf Course, 1274 Golf Club Rd.

Our legislators have been invited to share what they're considering for legislation in the upcoming session. In addition, the event will give all of us a chance to meet in person.

Meeting Coordinator Edwina Jaramillo said for those members who cannot attend in person, a Zoom will be available. The League will also highlight potential issues that will be supported by the League. Be sure and email Edwina ([marthaj11@verizon.net](mailto:marthaj11@verizon.net)) **right away** if you'd like to get a Zoom link sent to you.

The meeting costs \$10 for those attending in person for the hors d'oeuvres and beverages. (A cash bar will also be available).

Hope to see you there! **Bring a Friend!**

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

Kathy Brook & Eileen VanWie – 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

## Co-Presidents' Messages (cont.)

Dear LWVSNM Members.

Thank you to all who worked to get out the vote during this election season. Some of you registered voters, who are likely actual voters. Some of you were election officials, making actual voters feel safe and comfortable voting. Some of you were election watchers, observing the process to protect voters. No doubt some of you did other things to get out the vote. We hope we influenced people to vote, however, voter turnout was disappointing.

In Doña Ana County, 43.39% of registered voters (57,900 ballots) turned out. In Grant County, 56.58% of registered voters (11,749 ballots) participated. In Otero County, 46.99% of registered voters (17,689 ballots) cast their ballot. Let's be brainstorming ways we can be more influential in nonpartisan ways for the next election.



Eileen VanWie



Now it's time for the League to set priorities for advocacy with the New Mexico Legislature. The LWV New Mexico has set a few general categories for focus (e.g., reproductive rights, taxes/revenue policy, and modernizing the legislature). As bills begin to be filed, we will be more prescriptive with our priorities. The LWVNM will conduct an Advocacy Workshop via Zoom open to the public on Saturday, Jan. 7 from 10 am to Noon. See the website for more events: <https://www.lwvnm.org/calendar.html>

In January the LWVSNM will resume hybrid general meetings with the important Program Planning event. The in-person location is the DACC Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada (behind Sprouts) at 2:00 pm Saturday, Jan. 14. The Center is well equipped to support the hybrid format with Zoom. We'll be bringing in simple treats and beverages.

December is an important month for celebrations beginning with our Legislative Conversation and Holiday Social at the Sunset Grill on Saturday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 pm. Those unable to be there in person may join with Zoom. Email Edwina Jaramillo {[marthaj11@verizon.net](mailto:marthaj11@verizon.net)} right away to reserve attendance for yourself and a guest. Happy Holidays!

— With warm regards, Eileen VanWie



## Becoming US Citizens

There were 200 new United States citizens who took the Oath of Allegiance from The Honorable Kevin R. Sweazea of the U.S. District Court. The event was held at the Las Cruces Convention Center on Friday, Nov. 4, 2022. Kathy Brook, Johnnie Aldrich, and Eileen VanWie felt honored to witness the ceremony of people from 29 countries. League members Karina and Stewart Oberman had set up a table with information about voting. And, League members Rebecca Courtney and Rosemarie Sanchez helped greet and share voting information with the new citizens.

[photo courtesy Eileen VanWie]

## Upcoming Calendar Events

### DECEMBER 2022

- Dec. 3, Sat.: **Legislative Conversation & LWV Holiday Social**, 2pm, Sunset Grill, in person and Zoom
- Dec. 5, Mon.: **LWV Short Board Mtg.**, Noon, Zoom
- Dec. 7, Wed.: **LWVSNM Affordable Housing Comm.**, CANCELLED. The next meeting will be held in January; date & time to be announced.
- Dec. 10, Sat.: **No General Meeting** this month in order to host our Legislators on Dec. 3
- Dec. 15, Thurs.: **LWV Education Committee Mtg.**, 5pm; request a Zoom link from [Eileen VanWie](mailto:Eileen VanWie)
- Dec. 19, Mon.: **LWV Board Meeting**, 5:00 pm, Zoom
- Dec. 19-26: **Hannukah**
- Dec. 25, Sun.: **Christmas Day**
- Dec. 31, Sat.: **New Year's Eve**



### JANUARY 2023

- Jan. 2, Mon.: **Short Board Meeting**, Noon, via Zoom

## LWVSNM Election Watchers to Make Recommendations to SOS, Clerk

Thanks go out to Johnnie Aldrich, Alex Burr, Edwina Jaramillo, Ann McMahon, Jo Galván Nash, David Rice, and Elisa Sánchez for representing the League as Election Watchers. We were able to get observations from the Las Cruces City Hall, Corbett Center, Sonoma Elementary School, Lynn Middle School, Good Samaritan Social Center, Mesilla Town Hall, DAC Government Building. In Grant County, Ann watched the process at the Women's Club Center and the Administrative Building in Silver City.

Generally speaking, the Presiding Judges were well trained and provided a respectful atmosphere at the voting locations. People with disabilities were guided to supportive experiences. Voters were generally patient and calm. In some cases, on Election Day, the lines were long and there were a few problems with equipment. A report has been submitted electronically to offices of the County Clerks and the NM Secretary of State.

If you wish to review the full report, send a message to Eileen ([vanwieek@yahoo.com](mailto:vanwieek@yahoo.com)).

— Eileen VanWie



*Poll workers work long hours to handle the many duties involved with the voting process. This worker at Sonoma Elementary ensured that each voter witnessed that their ballot was accepted, and that the vote total changed. Plus, he thanked each person for voting.*

**Number of  
Doña Ana  
County  
Voters  
43.39%**



## Impact from the Voters Guides

Election day has come and gone and perhaps it is time to celebrate our successes (as well as keeping in mind what we may be able to do better next year).

The National League's Vote411 platform was the basis for our printed Voters Guides. Participation was high, especially among local candidates. The largest bloc of resistance to participation was by the universally unopposed Magistrate Judge candidates.

The Vote411 platform was easier for candidates to access than in the past year and the Voter Services Co-Chairs had few inquiries about how to enter information. Statistics on area viewership have been offered by LWVUS but are considered incomplete and not totally reliable. It was estimated that 2,000 people or more from the Las Cruces area viewed Vote411 in October and November 2022. [See page 4 for national stats.]

More people probably looked at the Voters Guides in print. Circulation of the newspapers with the printed Voters Guides within them is known, but it's not known how many people actually saw and used the Voters Guides. The English language guide appeared in the Las Cruces Bulletin which has a circulation of 16,000 per week, while the Spanish language guide appeared in El Camino Real's Spanish language newspaper which has a circulation of 8,000 bi-weekly.

We also posted the guides on the LWV website in October. Statistics about how many cyber visitors there were to our website in October are accurate, although we do not know whether people were looking for the Voters Guides or other information. Usage has always risen near elections, so it is to be assumed that it is because of the guides. October visits to our website numbered 9,883 people. Interestingly, more people visited in the month before the Primary than in the month before the General Election. The League's Voters Guides have been a basic project which has helped to provide nonpartisan and accurate information to the public and hopefully will continue to do so into the future.

—Dale Yeo, Co-Director, Voter Services

## LWVNM November News

From the perspective of LWVNM, the election went well and the League (with assistance from followers throughout the state) has raised its social media profile. President Hannah Burling urges all League members who haven't already done so to join Facebook or Instagram and follow the League.

LWVNM is waiting to see what bills are being filed in the legislature before finalizing priorities for the 2023 session. The Action Committee is looking for expanded participation, especially from those who might be willing to testify on behalf of the League, either in person or online. You can sign up to participate by signing up for the [action list](#).

LWVNM participates in several coalitions. Among these are The Democracy Project, hosted by NM First, working on messaging about the election; the Ethics Reform Group convened by Ethics Watch and an ethics group hosted by Common Cause; the Modernizing the Legislature Coalition, working on increasing legislative staff, paying legislators, and extending session length; and the Hydrogen Working Group, convened by the Sierra Club.

As Eileen has noted, LWVNM does not have enough information to establish legislative priorities at this point but will make those decisions in early January after the early filing of bills.

—Kathy Brook

## Housing Efforts Continue in 2023

Since 2012, the League has studied the need for and obstacles to increasing access to safe, decent and affordable homes for individuals, families and children in our area. The lack of a dedicated local fund to incentivize construction of affordable housing and leverage federal, state and private affordable housing funds was identified as one such obstacle.

With the support of League members, the City Council and Mayor, the Las Cruces Attainable Housing Coalition and a solid majority of city voters, the city will soon have access to \$6 million in GO Bond funding to help address our affordable housing shortage. This will be the first time the City has dedicated funding to its Affordable Housing Land Bank and Trust Fund (AHLB-TF). Thank you, League members, for your leadership on this issue!

So, what's next for the League with regard to housing and related subjects? We certainly want to ensure the GO bonds are spent wisely. Plus, we are continuing our study on electrification standards (see information below) and we're keeping watch on changes with the City's land development codes.

If you want to learn more about the League's policy position on affordable housing and our upcoming advocacy work, please [contact me directly](#). All my best, and happy holidays!

—Beth Bardwell

LWVSNM Affordable Housing Committee Chair



## Electrifying Public Expo

The LWV Affordable Housing Committee has been studying the topic of electrification. With that in mind, the Committee recommends you attend the **PowerUP Las Cruces Expo & Training** designed to generate excitement and “buzz” about the availability and affordability of new technologies surrounding electricity. The free event will showcase the many ways electricity can have a positive charge on our lives. Learn how to reduce your energy bills by going all-electric in your home and business.

Meet developers of all-electric homes, look over the best electric appliances, talk with energy saving retailers, and receive estimates for converting your living and working spaces to energy-reducing equipment. Get information to take advantage of discounts, rebates, and incentives to go all-electric.

**Friday, Jan. 20th • 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm &  
Saturday, Jan. 21st • 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.**  
Las Cruces Convention Center

## Notice: LWV Handbook & Membership Directory

As reported in last month's *Voter*, the LWVSNM Board has decided not to print the annual Handbook and Membership Directory this year. As a cost-savings measure, the booklet will only be available on our website. The booklet will still contain LWV policies and positions. In addition, all names of dues-paying members will be included. What will not be included are members' email and home addresses, and phone numbers. However, in order to stay connected, the Board will send everyone a separate document that will list everyone's full contact information.

**NOTE: If you do not want your name listed in the online Directory, please notify any Board member by the end of December 2022.** For additional questions, contact Acting Director of Membership [Johnnie Aldrich](#).

If your name does not appear in the handbook, it probably means we did not receive your 2022/23 dues. If you did pay, please accept our apologies and contact [Treasurer Mary Flynn](#) so that we can track down your dues. And, don't forget that our dues are tax-deductible. Mary will soon send 501(c)3 receipts for your IRS documentation.

Meanwhile, we will report our official membership count next month. Unfortunately, quite a few previous members did not renew this fiscal year (May 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023), but we hope they return to the League in the future. We are excited about the many new members from Otero and Grant counties.



### LET'S MEET LWVSNM MEMBER ... *Louise Marquez*

Louise Marquez is the New Mexico Economic Development Department's LEDA (Local Economic Development Act) Specialist and Regional Representative for Region 5. She represents the seven southwestern counties of New Mexico and, as the 'boots on the ground'/outreach wing of NM EDD, she connects communities and businesses with programs and incentives that help bring their projects across the finish line so they can create permanent, full-time, high paying jobs that benefit New Mexicans. She has nearly 20 years of experience working in community and economic development. At the local level of government, she worked for Torrance County, the Village of Tijeras, and, after relocating to Southern New Mexico in 2017, the City of Sunland Park. Her passion is helping clients and communities achieve success, thereby creating economic opportunities for every New Mexican.

Louise holds a BS in Project Management from Colorado State University's Global Campus. She is also a 2019 graduate of Leadership New Mexico's



Local Government Leadership Program and has previously held certifications as a Certified Zoning Official and a Certified Floodplain Manager.

For many years in every place she has lived, she sought out the League of Women Voter's voting guide to help her make informed choices. Once she got settled in Las Cruces, she actively began following the League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico. Joining their ranks this summer was the next logical choice. She has much to learn, but is eager to help LWV's efforts in any way she can.

While she only relocated to southern New Mexico in 2017, she actually arrived in the Albuquerque area while in high school so considers herself a 'transplanted native New Mexican'. She is a lector at St. Albert the Great Newman Center Catholic Church. She travels a great deal for work so is addicted to audiobooks. She spends her spare time exploring all that southern New Mexico has to offer in the way of hiking, live music, festivals and events.

Louise has four grown children, almost-eight grandbabies, and one horribly spoiled dog.

# Nominate Someone for the LWVSNM Making Democracy Work Award

*Nomination Deadline: Jan. 27, 2023*

We are pleased to announce that the League will once again accept nominations from throughout Southern New Mexico for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Making Democracy Work Award (MDWA) for 2023.

The award recognizes the efforts and work of citizens who conduct projects/activities that contribute to making democracy work by mobilizing civic engagement and/or promoting justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Civic engagement means civics education or participation in government (such as public committees, work on voter registration, submission of letters-to-the-editor, etc.) There is an award of \$250.

**LWV Board members are not eligible for submitting nominations. All active League members may nominate someone but are not eligible to be recipients of the award.** To nominate or win, persons must be a resident within one of these counties: Doña Ana, Grant, Luna, Otero, Hidalgo, Sierra, Eddy, Lea. (Prior recipients of the award are not eligible to be nominated again for a minimum of three years.)

All applications submitted by the deadline (Jan. 27, 2023) are read and scored by the members of the LWVSNM Board. Applications are evaluated on the following criteria:

- the general quality and completeness of the description of the civic engagement project/activity (who is carrying out the project, who and how many are served, what are the expected and actual outcomes) – weight of 40%;
- the extent to which the project mobilizes current and future civic engagement – weight of 30%;
- the ways in which the project promotes justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion – weight of 30%.

You may recall the 2022 honoree was Mary Carter, the Executive Director of the Women’s Intercultural Center in Anthony, NM. She is well-known for empowering women. For years, Carter taught classes at the Center for older Spanish-speaking adults who wanted to prepare for the citizenship exam and interview to become naturalized U.S. citizens.

The citizen preparation class expanded when Carter translated the curriculum into English for young English-speaking adults who have been in the U.S. and also wanted the same opportunity. Her guidance has resulted in at least 60 new citizens every year.

In 2021, the awardees were LCPS educators Jamie Patterson and Josie Miller, 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, tours, discussions and presentations about government, policy and civic engagement.

Students from six high schools participated in the event.

## ***LWV ASKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION:***

- Print the nomination form on page 7. Share it with your family or friends.
- Consider nominating someone you know who is deserving of this recognition and who meets the award criteria.
- Obtain that person’s permission and then fill out the Application Form on the next page.
- Email or mail the nomination form to: [lwvsnm@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsnm@gmail.com) or to PO Box 15142, Las Cruces, NM 88004.
- The Form must be received by January 27, 2023.

Contact Co-Presidents [Eileen VanWie](#) or [Kathy Brook](#) for additional information, or take a look on the [League website](#).

**LWV Making Democracy Work Award 2023  
NOMINATION FORM**

*(Download or print this form, fill out, and email or mail the form with attached narrative to addresses at bottom)*

***Nomination Deadline: January 27, 2023***

**Name of Nominee(s)\*** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Project/Activity** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address(es) of Nominee(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Address of Nominee(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone of Nominee(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home**

**AWARD CRITERIA:**

*The LWV Making Democracy Work Award recognizes community leaders of civic projects that have contributed to strengthening our democracy. The League looks for projects/activities and honorees that mobilize civic engagement and promote justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in Southern New Mexico. \*Nominees and nominators must reside within Southern NM (counties of Doña Ana, Otero, Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, Sierra, Eddy, and Lea.) LWV members may nominate but are not eligible to receive the award.*

**Attach to this form a brief narrative (no longer than one page in length) describing how the nominee(s) and the project/activity exemplify the Award criteria.**

**Name of Person Making Nomination\*** (can be self-nomination) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address(es)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home**

**Relationship to Nominee(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please email the completed form and narrative to: [lwvsnm@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsnm@gmail.com) or by mail to P.O. Box 15142, Las Cruces, NM 88004. **Nominations must be received by January 27, 2023.***

**INTERNAL ONLY:**

**Review date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Initials** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS\***  
**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, October 17, 2022**

**Meeting and League Administration:**

1. Mystery PayPal Account: D.Yeo reported that the League's "old" PayPal account was closed and the funds deposited in the LWVSNM checking account.
2. Attorney General's Report: K. Brook informed that she has written responses to the NM Attorney General's questions for the annual registration of non-profit organizations. The Board concurred with the responses.

**Discussion and Action:**

1. Program Information
  - a. Debrief October 8 General Meeting (Affordable Housing and City Advocacy): K. Brook informed that the Las Cruces Affordable Housing Land Bank and Trust Fund Advisory Committee's composition is mandated by ordinance. The Board discussed expanding the number of at-large members of the Committee relative to representatives of the building and loan sector. A League member may be able to attend the Committee as a representative of the Green Chamber. J. Galván Nash is interested in serving on the Committee.
  - b. November, December (Legislative Priorities), January, February:  
**November 12, 2022 General Meeting:** L. Castille reported she reached out to Crystal Diamond, Rebecca Dow, Joseph Cervantes, and an NRA representative for a panel discussion on gun safety, but has had no confirmations yet.  
**December 3, 2022 General Meeting:** E. Jaramillo reported that the subcommittee to plan the Legislative & Holiday Social has been meeting and plans are underway.
  - c. Use of Land Acknowledgement: E. VanWie noted that the League will periodically review the Acknowledgement at general meetings and it will be put on the LWVSNM website.
2. Membership/Report
  - a. Handbook: A motion was made by J. Galván Nash for a one-year hiatus on printing/shipping the LWVSNM Membership Handbook to members to save costs for the League. The handbook will continue to be accessible online. The motion was seconded by K. Kanim and approved unanimously.
3. Special Projects  
Otero County LWVSNM members want to create a League in Otero County. The Board agreed to meet with Otero County in January as a Zoom meeting to include the State League.
4. Practice Related to Messaging Members about Non-League Events: League members will be notified of non-League events as long as the event is supportive of League policies and mission. At such time members will be directed to the League website where the event will be posted.

**Adjournment:** at 6:43 p.m.



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

November 7, 2022

Observer: Kathy Brook

About 45 minutes were devoted to public participation mostly focused on complaints about Desert Hope (DH) Apartments including the need for the surrounding community to have locked mailboxes. A Community of Hope (CoH) employee assigned to the complex argued that the problems are not with the apartment tenants. Nicole Martinez of CoH indicated that there have been issues with visitors to the property including some clients of CoH. Beth Bardwell spoke on behalf of the LC Coalition for Attainable Housing and Judge Joy Goldbaum asked to be placed on the agenda for a future meeting to make a full presentation on the municipal court.

The main topic of the meeting was action to demolish the Kilby Motel on Main Street. The tenants of the structure have been relocated because of the poor condition of the property.

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

November 14, 2022

Observer: Kathy Brook

Presentation by a representative of the Public Defender's Office: The local office has 20 attorneys and an equal number of staff including two social workers. The office has very low turnover. Statewide there are about 200 attorneys and an additional 100 contract attorneys. The office deals with state charges involving felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile cases. It does not provide representation in municipal court. Most clients have substance abuse or mental health issues and more recently homelessness is a big issue. Social workers assist in finding housing and medication for clients. With respect to pre-trial detention, the speaker noted that we cannot incarcerate our way out of crime. It was also indicated that the judicial system is a de facto entry point to getting help and that there is a need for more outreach concerning domestic violence.

The second topic of the meeting was an update on historic preservation.

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

November 21, 2022

Observer: Kathy Brook

Public participation included speakers who spoke about the need to protect children and small businesses from the impact of Desert Hope Apartments. The mayor responded by noting that the Council held off on actions while new management was installed at Desert Hope and is now exploring options for improving the relationship with the surrounding community.

Municipal Judge Joy Goldbaum addressed some questions that had previously been raised about her role. She described the municipal court as being similar to a city department and said that she expects to continue to come to council meetings. She noted that most misdemeanors in her court involve criminal trespass and shoplifting. She also indicated that she could supply council members with information about the costs of using alternate judges.

The main piece of business was revision of a section of the Municipal Code to include a table that had been inadvertently omitted in the last revision.

—continued



### City Council (cont.)

Councilor Yvonne Flores, in her comments at the end of the meeting, indicated that she is working with a group on a prospective ordinance relating to police conduct. She expects it to come to the council before the end of the year. Councilor Tessa Abeyta spoke of her participation in a meeting of the National League of Cities, including discussion of closing the wealth gap by expanding home ownership.

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### DAC CHAPTER of the NAACP

November 19, 2022

Observer: Jennifer Kreie

The guest speaker was James Flowers, Jr., son of James Clayton Flowers who is visiting his father, the last surviving Tuskegee Airman. Mr. Flowers is about to turn 107 and lives in Las Cruces. Mr. Flowers, Jr., spoke about the NAACP's national mathematics competition for high school students to earn scholarships for college. He has served as a competition judge previously and he offered to coach any students from Las Cruces who want to compete.

Here are couple of links about Mr. Flowers, the Tuskegee Airman.

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Clayton\\_Flowers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Clayton_Flowers)
- <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/volume-165/issue-61/house-section/article/H3186-3>

The election of officers was supposed to be available online today, but it has been delayed. Dr. Bobbie Green will contact the national office to resolve the problem.

Terry Tolbert, chapter treasurer, reports on a meeting with city officials about a citizens review of the police. Mr. Tolbert met with the city manager, Mr. Ifo Pili, and Councilor Yvonne Flores also attended, as did Peter Goodman, KTAL radio talk show host. The current position of the city administration is that they will continue their own review and oversight efforts and urge NAACP members to join them rather than pushing for a separate citizens review board. General discussion of the NAACP attendees after Mr. Tolbert's report was not in favor of giving up on the citizens review board.

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### SOUTH CENTRAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY • Special Meeting

November 17, 2022 • 9 a.m.

Observer: Johnnie Aldrich

This city/county cooperative group that coordinates the multiple activities, schedules, and equipment involved in garbage/trash collection usually meets only quarterly, but contract requirements caused this Special Meeting.

Chair Manuel Sanchez, County Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. After the usual preliminaries (Pledge of Allegiance, Establishment of a Quorum, Acceptance of the Agenda, Acceptance of Regular Meeting 10/20/2022), the Board went into a Closed Meeting to “discuss personnel matters related to the Director,” Patrick Peck. Non-Board attendees were in a virtual “waiting room” for almost a half hour during this closed meeting.

When the Board reconvened, it was announced that Patrick Peck’s contract as Executive Director had been renewed for another year at a salary of \$172,000+. Other details of the conditions of the contract were not revealed.

Board members then addressed some minor financial matters in approving a Fiscal Year 2023 Budget adjustment, just a matter of moving money from one project to another and approved a Memorandum of Understanding By and Between the City of Anthony NM and the Authority.



### SCSWA cont.

Eventually, the current Anthony collection point will be abandoned because of poor drainage and a new transfer station will be built “to ensure that proper waste management” will be continued.

The meeting was closed with the announcement that the Board will not meet in December and January — and an expression of profound thanks to retiring DAC Commissioner (and former County Clerk) Lynn Ellins for his many years of effective service to both the Authority and Doña Ana County. Accolades abounded.

Adjournment: 10:04 a.m.

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## LCPS BOARD OF EDUCATION • Regular Meeting

November 15, 2022

Observer: Jo Galván Nash

*In attendance: Chairwoman Teresa Tenorio, Pam Cort, Ray Jaramillo (electronically), Robert Wofford, Carol Cooper, and Carly, student advisor from Organ Mountain High; Superintendent Ralph Ramos was also present.*

The meeting began with heartfelt messages regarding the passing of two former LCPS employees: Johnny Cuaron was a girls’ basketball coach at Vista Middle School and Doña Ana Elementary for more than 30 years; also remembered was former high school principal and chemistry teacher Don Noe, a well-known, lifelong educator.

The Board also recognized two of 12 women selected as “2022 Outstanding Women of the Mesilla Valley.” They each played a role to positively influence and impact our community through their profession, school, and home life. The two women educators are Stephanie Hofackett, Associate Director of Teaching and Learning at the LCPS Challenger Learning Center, and Linda Prendez, a secondary teacher since 1972. She began teaching at Mayfield High and currently works at Centennial High as an Instructional Specialist. Also congratulated was the first runner-up for the New Mexico Teacher of the Year Award, Catherine Turietta-Huber. She is a 5<sup>th</sup>-grade teacher from Tombaugh Elementary.

The Superintendent reported that all 68 campus security guards attended CPR certification training; office space in every school is being identified so that local and state law enforcement can have a place for their needs; and the Athletics Department is preparing a student handbook which will need the public’s review soon.

Sean Barham, HR executive director, presented data regarding the number of LCPS employment vacancies. At the end of November, there were 29 teacher vacancies and 32 vacancies of other certified professionals. That equates to a 97% staffing rate for certified personnel, a total of 61 positions out of 2,236 certified jobs. Regarding the classified positions, there is a 91% staffing rate or 119 vacancies out of 1,309 classified positions, such as educational assistants (58), custodians (10), clerical (2), security (1), nutrition service workers (46), and physical plant (2). Barham also reported there are 771 active substitute teachers.

After reviewing three similar options, the Board selected new boundaries for the five School Board voting districts (Option 2) with a vote of 4-0. The law requires redistricting following the federal census. The Board redistricting does not impact school zones/boundaries. However, some school zones will now be in a different Board member’s district; for example, two schools moved from District #4 (Teresa Tenorio’s) to District #2 (Pam Cort’s). The Secretary of State will receive the final maps by year’s end.

## Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Mary Flynn, Treasurer

**NOVEMBER 26, 2022**

DATE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
October 24, 2022	<b>BALANCE FORWARD</b>	<b>\$13,733.62</b>
<b>MEMBER INCOME</b>		
October 28, 2022	Bank Deposit	\$300.00
October 28, 2022	Bank Deposit	\$467.31
November 14, 2022	Paypal Deposit	\$65.67
November 14, 2022	Paypal Deposit	\$194.56
November 18, 2022	Bank Deposit	\$152.50
	<b>TOTAL MEMBER INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,180.04</b>
<b>NEW EXPENSES</b>		
October 26, 2022	Consumer Cellular	\$20.42
November 21, 2022	Consumer Cellular	\$20.42
	<b>TOTAL NEW EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$40.84</b>
	<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND</b>	<b>\$14,872.82</b>
<b>COMMITTED FUNDS</b>		
November 26, 2022	Spanish Language Voter	\$500.00
November 26, 2022	Diversity Fund	\$415.00
November 26, 2022	Youth Engagement Fund	\$625.00
November 26, 2022	Social Media Fund	\$500.00
November 26, 2022	New Mexico Listens Project	\$250.00
November 26, 2022	Voter Service	\$750.00
	<b>TOTAL COMMITTED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$3,040.00</b>





# Book Club

*We Read So We Know Things*

The Book Club's purpose: to read books that give us a better understanding and appreciation of current events. This includes not only the political issues but also other aspects, such as health care, economics, the impact of technological advances, the courts and foreign affairs – e.g, any aspect that affects our current civil society.

Here are some of the books we have read recently:

- The Education of an Idealist: A Memoir*, by Samantha Power
- Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent*, by Isabel Wilkerson
- The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*, by Walter Isaacson
- On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*, by Timothy Snyder
- Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth, and the Trials of American Democracy*, by Jamie Raskin
- Davos Man: How the Billionaires Devoured the World*, by Peter S. Goodman
- Lady Justice*, by Dahlia Lithwick

Book club meetings are on the first Thursday of each month, 3PM, usually via Zoom. Discussions are free-wheeling, entertaining and often funny. Members take turns moderating the discussions. Any member can suggest books for consideration for future meetings. New members are very welcome!

*Want to participate?*

*Contact Erika Graf-Webster at [grafwebster@icloud.com](mailto:grafwebster@icloud.com)*

## BOOK CLUB MEETINGS ARE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

### Books Selected for Upcoming Meetings

<p><b>December 1</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <b>Kathy</b></p>	<p><b>Lady Justice</b> by Dahlia Lithwick          “Lady Justice” focuses on the women who, since the election of 2016, have mobilized against Trumpism and its threats to the rule of law. Combining biography and analysis, Lithwick — a lawyer and writer who covers legal matters for Slate — profiles several members of the profession who have, in her view, done real work to save American democracy. From Sally Yates and Becca Heller, who fought against the travel ban on Muslim-majority nations to Brigitte Amiri and Vanita Gupta, two women of immigrant backgrounds who resisted the president’s efforts to prevent abortions and separate families at the U.S.-Mexico border, “Lady Justice” illustrates how “in a constitutional democracy, enduring power lies in the people who step into the fight.”</p>
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