

# the VOTER

MAY 2023

Volume 55, Issue 1



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## Co-Presidents' Communiqué

Hi Everyone,

As this is the first report from Jo Galván Nash and Kathe Kanim, the best way to begin our terms as co-presidents is to once again, thank Kathy Brook and Eileen VanWie. Their four years of League leadership is much appreciated, and we'll be leaning on them for their expertise as they serve in new roles. In addition to continuing on the Board as active past-presidents, Kathy is the new co-president of LWV-New Mexico and Eileen is co-director of LWVSNM Youth Engagement. We have big shoes to fill!



We also ask for your patience as we navigate the next two years. Our vision will include a continued focus on strengthening democracy, which incorporates an approach of "less is more." We want to focus on a few great strategies that fall in line with our League's adopted 2023/24 program: updating positions on education, affordable housing (particularly with respect to the issue of electrification), and libraries. We'll also continue our work on positions such as modernizing the Legislature, violence prevention and exploration on New Mexico's

physician shortage. This doesn't mean we will eliminate other important activities such as publishing Voters' Guides or promoting get-out-the-vote. We simply want to make sure our League's volunteer efforts are thorough, effective, and involve as many of our members as possible.

Because of Covid (which persists), we've seen a drop in attendance at our general meetings. With teleconference options, more members have re-engaged, and our hybrid meetings have helped.

o co-presidents' message continued next page

## May Meeting & the Visioning Lab

We need your collective ideas at the **Saturday, May 13 General Meeting**. Instead of a traditional League speaker, we would like to have discussion on several LWV topics. Your attendance is appreciated, *particularly from members who have been in the organization for many years*. We'll begin at 2:00 p.m. (1:50 pm for online attendees to log-in) at the DACC Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada Ave. Bring a beverage.

On the 13<sup>th</sup>, we'll hear from Kathe Kanim, Eileen VanWie, Kathy Brook, Edwina Jaramillo, Johnnie Aldrich and, from our Otero Unit, Nadia Sikes. They attended the state LWV convention, and we'll hear what they learned and what we need to know.

Other items to discuss will include: • How to assist Dale Yeo in voter services outreach? • Are we reaching the right population with our current voter outreach? • How do we handle the need to raise funds and appoint a development director and/or committee? • What other avenues can be explored to increase our membership? • Which LWVSNM committees can count on your time this year?

We suspect that much of our conversation will be quite useful as we head toward the annual **June Visioning Lab**; this is when we take a deep dive into our program and plan of action for the year.

The Visioning Lab, typically attended mostly by Board members, will be open this year to any LWVSNM member who is interested. We need your ideas! The Visioning Lab lets us establish a fluid blueprint on how we will put our program and advocacy into action.

The visioning session will be held on Saturday, June 17 at the DACC Workforce Center from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm with a dutch-treat lunch - nothing fancy. Watch for your e-invite to attend and you can RSVP at that time. (**NO** June 10 general meeting.)

Contact [Jo](#) or [Kathe](#) if you have questions about the May meeting or the Visioning Lab. *See you soon!*

▪ Jo, Kathe, and Laura

## Co-Presidents' Message (cont.)

However, we will be asking our members via a survey as to how many meetings are preferred each year. You'll also be asked about the day/time for meetings and if you want them to be in-person, hybrid or a combination of both. The survey is critically important to the organization, so your confidential participation is essential. Look for the survey in your email very soon.

Finally, we're open to suggestions as we fine-tune a few LWVSNM processes. As examples, we want to have a more structured time-period for paying dues (all dues to be paid by the end of September), and we want to ensure we have historical documents (such as Board minutes) available to the membership online.

Meanwhile, we look forward to the months ahead and as always, thank you for being an LWV member!

- [Jo Galván Nash and Kathe Kanim](#)  
*Co-Presidents*



**SIGN UP!** We want 2023/24 to be an active year! Please consider volunteering – even if it's only a few hours a month. Where you are needed:

**Observer Corp:** Watch and record pertinent items by the Doña Ana County Commission, the City Council, or the NMSU Board of Regents (in-person or online). If you prefer to be an observer of a different organization, get in touch with a co-president to discuss your suggestion.

**Committees:** LWV needs a Library position chair, currently handled by Kathy Brook. Kathy is now a state co-president and she needs assistance.

**Voter Services:** We're hoping to find a co-director to work with Dale Yeo. Or, if you want to help with voter service projects, let Dale know.



## Upcoming Calendar Events

### MAY 2023

**National Police Week** (3<sup>rd</sup> week) and **Emergency Medical Services Week** (4<sup>th</sup> week); **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**; **National Nurses Week** (begins 5/6)

May 1, Mon.: **Short Board Meeting**, 5:30 pm, Zoom  
**(New Time)**; [contact Kathe if you want to attend](#).

May 2, Tues.: **LWV Housing Committee**, 3:30, Zoom, contact [Beth Bardwell](#) to join or attend.

May 5, Fri.: **Cinco de Mayo**

May 10, Wed.: **Otero Unit Mtg**, 6:30 pm in High Rolls, [Contact Claudia Powell](#) for information.

May 13, Sat.: **General Meeting** (Hybrid), 2pm, DACC Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada Ave., in-person and Zoom.

May 14, Sun.: **Mothers' Day**

May 15, Mon.: **Board Meeting**, 5:30 pm, Zoom  
**(New Time)**, [contact Kathe if you want to attend](#).

May 29, Mon.: **Memorial Day Holiday**

### **2023/24 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO BOARD:**

Jo Galván Nash & Kathe Kanim – Co-Presidents  
Laura Castille – Vice President  
Edwina Jaramillo – Secretary  
Louise Marquez – Treasurer  
Kathy Brook & Eileen VanWie – Past Presidents  
Dale Yeo – Voter Services Co-Director  
Kate Mangelsdorf – Membership Director  
Eileen VanWie & Josie Miller – Youth Engagement Co-Directors  
TBA – Public Relations Director  
Jo Galván Nash – The Voter Editor  
Mary Flynn, Chair, Johnnie Aldrich and Kate Mangelsdorf, Members – Nominating Committee

## Time Change for Board Meetings

The LWVSNM Board Meeting times have changed. Any LWV member who wishes to attend is welcomed.

In advance, [notify Co-President Kathe Kanim if you would like to attend a meeting](#).

The **Short Board Meetings** will be held on the first Mondays of each month at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

The **Regular Board Meetings** will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.



## ANNUAL MEETING BRINGS NEW BOARD AND SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

A large group gathered on April 15 for the Annual Meeting. Kathe Kanim and Jo Galván Nash (both were existing Board members) were elected as Co-Presidents, in addition to other Board members. League members also approved the LWVSNM Program for 2023/24. (Read the co-presidents' message on page 1). One change to the LWV Bylaws was to allow the past-presidents to vote on future Board action, as opposed to just serving in an advisory role on the Board.

Another important aspect of the Annual Meeting was to hear suggestions from the membership. The Board gathered their suggestions which included: • advocate for separation of church and state; • update the existing positions which were reaffirmed; be proactive in recruiting new members; • determine the cost per member when planning the budget and setting the level of dues; • consider reducing the number of general meetings per year (currently there are 8 not including the Program Planning Meeting, the Legislative Conversation, and the Annual Business Meeting); consider holding Unit Meetings (one-topic/deeper discussion); consider new time for monthly general meetings (currently 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.); • urge the state League to advocate for affordable housing.

All of these suggestions and more will be discussed in detail in the coming months.



*PHOTOS from top/left, clockwise:*

1. There was a good turnout at the Annual Meeting at the DAAC Workforce Center;
2. The incoming Co-Presidents, Kathe Kanim and Jo Galván Nash, presented flowers and gifts to outgoing Co-Presidents Kathy Brook and Eileen VanWie.
3. At the far end of the table, William Little was the experienced parliamentarian for the meeting.
4. At the forefront, Secretary Edwina Jaramillo took notes of the many conversations.

*Photos by Alex Burr, Rebecca Courtney & Jo Nash*



## Additional Officers & Board Members



**Laura Castille – Vice President  
1-year term**

Laura will serve another year as our Vice-President, planning the speakers and topics for general/unit meetings. She is a local attorney and a former school teacher and administrator.



**Edwina Jaramillo - Secretary  
1-year term**

Louise continues her term as Secretary. She's also been selected as Voter Services Director for LWVNM. When Edwina moved to NM, she quickly joined LWVSNM.

## New Officers & Board (cont.)



### **Louise Marquez – Treasurer 2-year term**

Louise joined the League in fall 2022. She is a state Economic Develop. Dept. Specialist for 7 counties. Her budgeting expertise will benefit our organization.



### **Dale Yeo – Voter Services Director 1-year term**

A longtime Board member, Dale will continue her term as Voter Services Chair. She knows the ins-and-outs on voter outreach, and publishing the Voters' Guides and the LWV Who's Who pamphlets.



### **Kate Mangelsdorf – Membership Director, 2-year term**

A recently retired Rhetoric & Writing Studies professor from UTEP, Kate joined LWVSNM in 2022. In addition to serving as Membership Director, she was appointed by the Board to the Nominating Committee.



### **Josie Miller – Youth Engagement Director, 2-year term**

Josie is a content specialist for middle school English/Language Arts for Las Cruces Public Schools. She was elected as Co-Director for Youth Engagement along with Eileen VanWie. She'll be a great connection to the public schools.



### **Eileen VanWie – Youth Engagement Director, 2-yr. term**

Eileen will have a dual-role on the Board. She will serve as a Past-President and will also be Co-Director of Youth Engagement with Josie Miller. Eileen also chairs the LWVSNM Education Committee.



### **Mary Flynn – Chairperson, Nominating Committee, 1-yr. term**

Mary just concluded her term as SNM Treasurer and is now Chair of the Nominating Committee. Mary is a former Mayor, community leader and retired teacher from Chico, CA. She chose Las Cruces two years ago for her retirement.



### **Kathy Brook – Past-President**

Kathy Brook will be active as the Board's past-president. She's also the chair to update the League's library position. Kathy will be busier than ever this year as she was also elected as co-president of the LWVNM. She is a retired professor from NMSU.

## We're Looking for Additional Support

There are still positions that need to be filled on the Board, including **PR Director and PR coordinators**. New Co-President Jo Nash will continue publishing *The Voter*, and Julie Wojtko will work with Stewart Oberman on our website. But one or two other coordinators are needed to help with publicity/social media. One director would report to the Board with a bird's-eye-view of all of these segments.

We would also like to fill a new position of **Development Director** and a **Co-Director of Voter Services**. Please consider volunteering. The entire Board will lend its support and assist anyone with a short learning curve!



### **Johnnie Aldrich – Member, Nominating Comm., 1-yr. term**

Johnnie ended her Interim service as Membership Director but is continuing to volunteer as a Nominating Committee member and she serves the Observer Corps.





## Youth Engagement in Action

The LWVSNM participated in two April events hosted by Las Cruces Public Schools – the 2023 Spring Literacy Extravaganza and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ENGaging LATino Communities for Education (ENLACE) Southern NM Health and Wellness Day.

The 2023 Spring Literacy Extravaganza (below) was held at the Plaza de Las Cruces. The purpose of the April 5<sup>th</sup> event was to celebrate a love of literacy with the Las Cruces community. There were 40 different hosts ranging from La Clinica de Familia to the League of Women Voters. Booth activities were literacy based to share cultural stories, tell stories, and to promote a love of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The League of Women Voters hosted a booth, and the activity was to have visitors write a postcard to Governor Lujan Grisham thanking her for signing legislation SB4 making free school meals the law of the land. The event also provided an opportunity for interested individuals to register to vote.



*Left: Eileen VanWie mans the SNM table at the Extravaganza. She also had a Voter Registration sign in the event someone needed to register. Both she and Josie (right) had a good time at both events!*



*Photos by Josie & Eileen*

*Eileen and Josie spent another weekend with several ENLACE students at the health and wellness event.*

The second event (above) on April 11, (ENLACE) Southern NM Health and Wellness Day, was held at the LCPS Field of Dreams. The purpose of the League's table was to share information with students about the LWVSNM. Booth activities included a trivia questions game about the state of New Mexico.

- *Josie Miller, Co-Director Youth Engagement*

## Time to Pay Your Dues

Louise Marquez, the newly elected Treasurer, is ready to accept your 2023/24 membership dues. A full-year's membership is \$65 from May 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024. If you have a second member living in your household, their yearly dues are \$32.50. Currently enrolled students, 16 years and older, can join or renew for free.

All dues should be paid before the end of September in order to be included in the LWVSNM membership directory. The directory will be updated in early October. And don't forget, dues are tax-deductible; Louise will send you a letter acknowledging your contribution before the end of 2023.

If you pay dues through the LWVSNM website, please consider adding a minimum donation of \$2.50 to your payment. This will cover the charges the organization incurs for electronic payments.

As in the past, dues can be paid several ways:

1. Send a check made payable to LWVSNM and mail to: P.O. Box 15142, Las Cruces, NM 88004.
2. Online, go to this website: <https://www.lwvsnm.org/join/> and use your credit card or PayPal.
3. Give cash/check to any Board Member during an upcoming meeting.

Members are asked to please fill out the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. (The form is also online when paying your dues.) We want to have your current contact information.

Recently, our past nominating committee chairwoman Shirley Armstrong challenged all of us to invite a new member into our group. A great idea!

# Community Connection

## DAC-NAACP

The NAACP of Doña Ana County met on April 15, 2023, and the guest speaker was Angelica Rubio, State Representative for District #1 in Doña Ana County. Representative Rubio gave an overview on what she thought was accomplished in this year's legislative session and some of the proposed bills that did not pass.

She said affordable housing is a major focus for her and that she usually looks at issues from an economic justice perspective. For example, she recommends Power 4 New Mexico, an organization that promotes a sustainable economy but with a strong effort to assist communities that will be affected as oil and gas revenue declines over the next 10 years.

Based on questions from the audience, Representative Rubio talked about why some bills that passed the House were opposed in the Senate, including opposition from a few Democrats. In particular, trying to modernize the legislature (pay for legislators' salaries, staff and more days in the session) stalled in the Senate. All that was proposed this session was to estab-



Rep. Angelica Rubio

lish a commission to look at pay and other issues, but it was blocked in the Senate.

Representative Rubio talked about how important the interim committees are. Their work is done in between legislative session and these committees are a good place for public input.

After the guest speaker's presentation and discussion, radio talk show host Peter Goodman gave an update on the proposed Citizens Review Board. There seems to be some confusion about whether there will be a City Council work session in the future about this topic. Earl Niessen said he would follow up with city councilors about getting a work session request on the city council agenda. Dr. Bobbie Green, Chapter Chair, said she would send out an email requesting that people write a letter to their city councilor asking for support for this work session request. Mr. Goodman has drafted a letter that people can use, if they choose.

Officers' reports were given, and the local Juneteenth Celebration is [now online](#).

■ Jennifer Kreie  
LWVSNM & NAACP DAC Chapter

## JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS

League members are encouraged to get their tickets to this year's NAACP Juneteenth celebrations, beginning with a banquet at 6:00 pm on Sat., June 17 at the LC Convention Center. The Keynote will be Sen. Harold Pope, Jr. who is the first African American to be elected to the NM Senate.

LWVSNM traditionally sponsors a table, if LWV brings eight attendees. Liz Rodriguez-Johnson, an LWV and NAACP member, will group together our ticket requests. The banquet is \$50 per person. [Click here to pay and sign up.](#)

There will also be June 18<sup>th</sup> church services, and a Jazz and Arts Festival, culminating at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts on Mon., June 19<sup>th</sup>. It will be great to see our LWV members attending these activities.

Dr. Bobbie Green, president of the DAC-NAACP reminds us that "our country has made great progress since the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863." That is why the programs "emphasize the importance of freedom, for all people."

■ [Liz Rodriguez-Johnson](#),  
LWVSNM and DAC-NAACP • 575.312.5677

## Juneteenth 2023 Banquet

# NAACP

Doña Ana County Branch



**Banquet Speaker:**  
**Senator Harold Pope, Jr.**

**THIS IS  
POWER**

6 PM, Saturday, June 17, 2023  
Las Cruces Convention Center  
Tickets \$50 per person

Purchase online <https://naacpdac.org/asp-products/juneteenth-2023-banquet/>



**Short Board Meeting**  
**Monday, April 3, 2023, Noon, Via Zoom**

**DRAFT SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS\***

**Discussion and Action**

1. Six delegates will go to the LWVNM Convention in Los Alamos April 28-30, 2023  
**Action Item:** K. Brook and M. Flynn will pay the registration fee for five confirmed delegates. Board members must register independently and separate from payment of the registration fee.
2. General Meetings:
  - a. May 13, 2023 – General Meeting: L. Castille reported that she reached out to several libraries in the local area and we may be able to get a library panel discussion for the June general meeting rather than May. Also discussed were the program topics approved at the annual meeting, and a general League discussion, e.g., membership, attendance, etc., for the May general meeting.
3. Annual Meeting, April 15, 2023  
Proposed Bylaws Update: The Board reviewed the proposed revision to Articles IV and Article V, Sections 1 and 9, respectively, of the bylaws that removes “non-voting” verbiage for past-presidents.
4. Local Survey Update  
The Board reviewed a proposed local member survey and made several corrections and additions. A motion was made by J. Galván Nash to approve the local survey as revised, and it was seconded by E. VanWie. The motion carried unanimously. The survey will go to the membership in May.
5. LWVUS Survey of Members Distributed in Early April  
K. Brook reported the LWVUS sent an organization-wide survey to be completed by all members by April 22, 2023. **Action Item:** K. Brook will send a reminder to the membership to complete the survey in a few weeks.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by J. Galván Nash and seconded by D. Yeo. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

*\*Full minutes may be requested from the LWVSNM Board Secretary at [marthaj11@verizon.net](mailto:marthaj11@verizon.net)*





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

April 3, 2023

Observer: Kathy Brook

Public participation was quite lengthy. Topics included dismay about the state of the city and the school system and the change in the name of a street; failure to explain the departure of the city attorney; lack of transparency; an illegal encampment at Burn Lake. There also were requests for a work session on police accountability and Senator Bill Soules spoke about the capital outlay successes in Santa Fe. Many members of the public expressed support for the work of the council.

In response to questions about the affordable housing bonds, it was explained that the city would proceed to issue the bonds, if there was a project that was ready to go. The City Manager stated that the city is going through the process of vetting housing projects and wants to make sure that the money is not sitting (and incurring interest) in the meantime. The interest rate on these taxable bonds is expected to be 1-1.5 percentage points higher than on tax-exempt bonds.

The Council voted to restructure the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee. It will be a non-standard board with five at-large members, who may be city or county residents. Next steps will be appointments to the board, convening of meetings with review of the ordinance and implementation strategy, and project recommendations. It has been difficult to fill positions on existing committees, according to Council remarks. Councilor Flores spoke of the importance of assuring that at least one member of the public is on the board.

During Councilor and Mayor Comments, at least four councilors expressed support for either a police oversight committee or a work session on that topic. Mayor Pro Tem Kassandra Gandara expressed concern about the detention center, in particular access to books and care. The possibility of reinstating the Leadership Academy was also raised.

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

April 10, 2023

Observer: Kathy Brook

Lorenzo Alba provided a report on evaluation of the food security program offered through Casa de Peregrinos (CdP). CdP's focus groups and surveys provide evidence of its impact on lives in the community. CdP is moving toward delivery of food to those who may not be able to access food through the CdP location.

A second topic was an ordinance on source of income for housing payments (for example, housing vouchers). The proposed change would not allow landlords to reject a client solely based on legal sources of income. It does not prevent landlords from setting the rent, screening clients in legal ways, or evicting tenants. Albuquerque and Bernalillo County have passed similar ordinances and have focused on education of landlords concerning the change. This ordinance would come back to Council in late April or early May.

The final topic was an update on city branding, including introduction of a new city logo.

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### **DAC BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION (BOCC) • Regular Meeting**

April 11, 2023

Observer: Jo Galván Nash

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

There were several concerns brought to the BOCC by a member of the Doña Ana County Board of Voter

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Registration (BVR). Michael Potts said the Board, created by the Commission, is never called to order except one time every other year to clear the voter rolls after a General Election. He said “this seems backward” in that voter rolls, he believes, should be cleared before the General Elections to “preclude any attempted fraud” or falsified voters being counted. Nonetheless, he questioned the number of times the BVR is called to order.

Potts said he feels this county has a professional and knowledgeable county clerk, Dr. Amanda López Askin, but he disagrees with her and/or the Secretary of State as to when the BVRs should meet. He estimated there were approximately 6,000 voters cleared off the rolls last March; he also had a number of obituaries on-hand but said he did not know if those people have since been cleared off, as well. Potts concluded by asking the BOCC to consider his comments and to ask themselves what their expectations are and how they want the BVR to function.

Commissioners did not comment as this was done during the public input section of the meeting when typically, no further discussion takes place.

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

April 17, 2023

Observer: Kathy Brook

National Library Week, April 23-29, was recognized through a proclamation noting a range of library services beyond book selections.

Public participation topics included research on police oversight committees, noting that they can be tailored to meet the needs of the community; a proposed first reading concerning a change in zoning to commercial high intensity at 4003 Tellbrook; traffic on Hwy 70 at Mesa Grande; progress in cleaning up an illegal encampment at Burn Lake Park; vandalism affecting small businesses (including reference to the “monolithic, aggressive council”).

Council approved state-shared gross receipts tax improvement revenue bonds and third quarter routine budget adjustments.

Councilor comments included a request from Councilor Yvonne Flores to determine whether there are four councilors who support a special meeting on the topic of police oversight. According to Councilor Flores four councilors can call for a special meeting, not necessarily a work session. Councilors Corran, Bencomo, and Graham and Mayor Pro Tem Kassandra Gandara also expressed support for a special meeting.

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### **SOUTH CENTRAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY • Regular Meeting**

April 20, 2023, 9:00 a.m. • A Hybrid Meeting

Observer: Johnnie R Aldrich

This city/county collaborative group that manages the collection and disposal of multiple tons of trash and garbage, meets only quarterly, so “business as usual” takes time.

#### Highlights From This Session:

First on the agenda was a presentation of a soon-to-be-released Recycling Marketing Plan, which is 85-90% finished. The core of the plan is an announcement that will show up on social media, TV and radio, and even on the sides of the collection trucks. Reasons to continue/begin participation in recycling are the main message. The contracted company submitted the announcement to the Board for feedback. They got it. The almost-an-hour-long discussion of the announcement contents involved every board member at least once.

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SCSWA is a government entity that, every quarter, recognizes the contributions of an employee with a Certificate of Excellence. This quarter’s awardee was George Segobia, who has completed 22 years with the Authority. He is currently a Heavy Equipment Operator, but is so highly skilled in repair techniques, especially in welding, that he has become “a blessing in every department,” mostly because “he can fix anything,” in the words of both co-workers and supervisors. Many of the department heads present at this meeting joined in accolades of this employee’s superior work ethic and skill level.

Director Patrick Peck’s administrative activities report began with information that the Corralitos Landfill is now fully staffed, a primary concern for several months. That staff has been kept busy in recent weeks, especially, since desert clean-up is added to its workload. (Recent windstorms have blown huge amounts of trash, especially plastics, from the landfill into the surrounding desert.)

Another major concern is expansion of collection activities in the southern reaches of the county, where illegal dumping is a major issue. Peck and the County Manager and his staff continue to work on a pilot collection program, including an outreach plan to distribute surveys to the public on the need for collection at remote sites. Negotiations are ongoing about the construction of an additional transfer station on Holman Road and collections at Holloman Air Force Base.

Peck also noted that he had found a \$70,000 error in one of the valuation sheets reporting the prices of collected trash; the money will be refunded. Other good news ending his report is that the current legislative session of the NM Congress awarded \$700,000 in Capital Outlay funds to the Authority. Additionally, two Chevy EV Bolts have been received for staff and administration use.

Finally, Peck reminded the Board members that customer service is paramount at SCSWA. Anyone who calls 575-528-3800 with a question or concern about trash/garbage collection will still be answered by a human being, not by a computer voice with a menu!

Adjournment: 10:32 a.m.

### **LCPS BOARD OF EDUCATION • Special Meeting**

April 19, 2023

Observer: Jo Galván Nash

The LCPS School Board used a rank-choice voting structure and conducted public interviews to select Patrick Nolan as the new Board member in District #1, filling a vacancy created by the resignation of Ray Jaramillo. Nolan is the executive director of the Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks organization. Previously, he also worked as a union representative for the American Federation of Teachers-New Mexico. He will serve the remainder of Mr. Jaramillo’s term and would then decide whether to run for re-election.



PHOTO: LCPS

*(Photo) Mr. Nolan took his oath of office from County Clerk Amanda López Askin, and then signed his oath of office.*



### **LCPS BOARD OF EDUCATION • Regular Meeting**

April 25, 2023 • 6:00 pm

Observer: Eileen VanWie

*Members Present: President Teresa Tenorio, VP Pam Cort, Secretary Robert Wofford, and members Carol Cooper and Patrick Nolan (new).*

There were three people who made public comments. One person said he reviewed books that have been purchased for the school district. He particularly disapproved of the book *Jack of Hearts* by L.C. Rosen as not being age appropriate for high school students. “What are parents going to do about such books?”

Two physical education teachers thanked the Board for supporting physical education activities. Board members were invited to attend a track meet at the Field of Dreams on Thursday with the opening ceremony beginning at 10:00 am.

The third person thanked Ms. Cooper for nominating him to be on the Superintendent’s search committee and then said that parents were being lied to about critical race theory. He quoted an article from the *Las Cruces Sun-News*, where NMSU professor Dr. Dulcinea Lara stated that critical race theory can be adapted for learning with young children. He claimed the School District has lied to parents about critical race theory not being a K-12 subject. There was a Save New Mexico Zoom meeting in Albuquerque last night, with Steve Pearce and Stefani Lord, that addressed this.

LCPS Interim Superintendent Sherley O’Brien shared some of her recent activities, such as visiting Mesilla Park Elementary for its literacy extravaganza. Last week, LCPS successfully hosted a meeting of the New Mexico School Board Association at Organ Mountain High School. Participants felt welcomed and appreciated. Ms. O’Brien thanked Citizen’s Bank for supplying new marquees for two schools (Hermosa Heights and East Picacho elementaries). She also thanked principals who were attending the Board meeting.

J.G. Consulting (Austin, TX) was hired to support the search for a new superintendent. Consultants attended via Zoom to share the report that’s being developed. There are 72 people on the local superintendent’s search committee. So far 540 people have responded to the survey seeking public input, which will be open until Thursday, April 27. The Board will reconvene this meeting to make decisions about the search with the consultant’s report on Friday, April 28 at 1:00 pm. Interviews with candidates are planned for July.

Changes to Policy IHBE Bilingual Instruction were unanimously approved. The updated policy is called *Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition*. It will include a Language Master Plan and refer to “emerging bilingual students,” which implies any student working to become bilingual. Policy IKFC Alternate Demonstration of Competency was rescinded because the PED no longer uses that language. Changes to Policy IKF Graduation Requirements, which assures that the District is using the current requirements of New Mexico statutes, was also approved.



# TREASURER'S REPORT – APRIL 2023

PREPARED ON 04.23.23 • LOUISE MARQUEZ, TREASURER

DATE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
	<b>BALANCE FORWARD</b>	\$ 5,837.42
<b>NEW INCOME</b>		
3/29/23	Bank Deposit - 3-1: Member Dues	\$ 63.22
3/31/23	Bank Deposit - 3-1: Member Dues	\$ 65.67
4/21/23	PayPal Deposit - 4-5: Donations/Gifts in addition to dues	\$ 4.41
4/24/23	Bank Deposit	
	3-1: Member Dues \$	585.00
	4-5: Donations/Gifts in Addition to Dues \$	820.00
	4-3: Zoom Contribution \$	165.00
		\$ 1,570.00
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 1,703.30</b>
<b>NEW EXPENSES</b>		
3/7/23	Robyn Holmes (MDW Award)	\$ 250.00
3/28/23	WeAreIT	\$ 126.83
3/31/23	Otero Member (50% Dues Refund)	\$ 40.00
4/5/23	LWVLA - Registration Fee (Reimbursement to K Brook)	\$ 175.00
4/22/23	Consumer Cellular (two month)	\$ 41.51
4/23/23	WeAreIT (Invoice from October 2022)	\$ 151.46
4/23/23	StormWeb - Annual Domain Registration (Reimb to D. Yeo)	\$ 18.56
4/23/23	Chromatic Stories (Partial Reimbursement to E. VanWie from NM Listens Fund)	\$ 100.00
	<b>TOTAL NEW EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 903.36</b>
	<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND</b>	<b>\$ 6,637.36</b>

<b>COMMITTED FUNDS</b>		
4/24/23	Spanish Language Voter	\$ -
4/24/23	Diversity Fund	\$ 415.00
4/24/23	Youth Engagement Fund	\$ 625.00
4/24/23	Social Media Fund	\$ 250.00
4/24/23	New Mexico Listens Project	\$ 400.00

## LWVSNM BOOK CLUB – MAY 2023

*We read so we know things*

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

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

### Books Selected for Upcoming Meetings

<p style="color: #C00000; font-weight: bold;">May 4</p> <p style="color: #C00000; font-weight: bold;">Moderator: Dale</p> <p style="font-size: small;">NOTE: To be divided into sections</p>	<p style="color: #C00000; font-weight: bold;">The Climate Book: The Facts and the Solutions</p> <p>by Greta Thunberg You might think it's an impossible task: secure a safe future for life on Earth, at a scale and speed never seen, against all the odds. There is hope - but only if we listen to the science before it's too late. In this book, Greta Thunberg has gathered the wisdom of over one hundred experts - geophysicists, oceanographers and meteorologists; engineers, economists and mathematicians; historians, philosophers and indigenous leaders - to equip us all with the knowledge we need to combat climate disaster.</p>
<p style="color: #C00000; font-weight: bold;">June 1</p> <p style="color: #C00000; font-weight: bold;">Moderator: Vicki</p>	<p style="color: #0000FF; font-weight: bold; text-decoration: underline;">Indigenous Continent: The Epic Quest for North America</p> <p>by Pekka Hamalainen A scholar reframes America's founding myths from a Native perspective, focusing on the victories and contributions of Indigenous communities.</p>



# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Send this Membership Form with Your Dues and/or Donation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ New member? Y / N Renewal? Y / N \*Student? Y / N

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Household Member: New Member? Y / N Renewal? Y / N \*Student? Y / N

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Student Members (age 16+): List current school: \_\_\_\_\_

What League issues are you most passionate about? Circle any that apply:

- |               |                           |                     |                     |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Voting Rights | Elections                 | Education/Youth     | Redistricting       |
| Gun Safety    | Immigration/Border Issues | Health Care         | Climate/Environment |
| Legislation   | Local Government          | Social Justice/JEDI | Jobs/Economy        |
| Other: _____  |                           |                     |                     |

What skill set or interest do you want to offer to the League? \_\_\_\_\_

*Send the Membership Form with Your Dues and/or Donation • THANK YOU!*

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:**

Annual Dues are paid in May of each year. If paying dues, select appropriate box:

- \$65.00 for first member     \$32.50 for second household member     \*Students (16+) free.

Make checks payable to LWVSNM. Send to: PO Box 15142, Las Cruces, NM 88004. Or pay at [www.lwvsnm.org](http://www.lwvsnm.org) using PayPal or Credit Card. (An additional \$2.50 is appreciated to cover electronic fees.) Forms can be emailed to: [lwvsnm@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsnm@gmail.com) Thank you!

### **DONATION:**

Please accept my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_. I request my donation be used for:

- General Use             Election/Voting-Related

### FOR OFFICE ONLY

Treasurer \_\_\_ National Data \_\_\_ Membership SNM \_\_\_ Committee \_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_