

the VOTER

JUNE 2023
Volume 55, Issue 2



INSIDE

Calendar & Events	2	Let's Meet Tom Krajci	6
Volunteering	2	Education Comm.	7
Otero Unit Activities	3	Community Connection	8
Youth Engagement	4	Board Summary	9-10
Development Comm.	5	Observer Reports	11-13

Co-Presidents' Communiqué

Hello League Members,

First things first — we want to wish everyone a nice summer and, for those who are traveling, please be safe. There are no meetings (and no Voter newsletter) in July, so you will hear from us again in August.

Over the past several weeks, there has been quite a bit of planning for two upcoming events: the Orientation meeting (Saturday, June 10) and the Visioning Lab (Saturday, June 17). We hope many of you will attend. See more information about both activities within this issue.

At the May 13 General Meeting, members spent quality time discussing voter services, i.e., voter registration, Vote411 website, the Voters' Guides, outreach, etc. One thing is clear, we need volunteers in this area. In the coming days, LWVSNM will be working alongside other local Leagues in the state to get as many candidates as possible entered into the [Vote411 website](#). Plus, the League will include questions for the candidates to answer. Our League will also print the popular Voters' Guides (English and Spanish), which is a large task. Thank goodness we have Dale Yeo, longtime director



of voter services, to work with volunteers as we approach the November election. Even if you have only a short amount of time to volunteer, please email [Dale](#) or [Edwina Jaramillo](#) to let them know your availability. In addition to being the SNM Secretary, Edwina is the newly elected state Director of Voter Services.

We also want to let you know that in the coming days, you'll receive the LWVSNM report which

o *continued next page*

June's Visioning Lab is for Everyone

The Visioning Lab, predominately attended in the past by Board members, will be open this year to all LWVSNM members who are 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 Saturday, June 17 at the DACC Workforce Center from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm in one of the classrooms. Our planning will be facilitated by LWVNM co-president Kathy Brook. With her guidance, our membership will discuss strategies and put action into a variety of focus areas and our Programs, such as Voter Services, Violence Prevention, the Branigan Library, Education, and much more.

This is a collaborative session that needs new perspectives *and* recommendations from experienced members. Plus, we need to address the suggestions made to the Board during the April Annual Meeting.

Please try to carve out a few hours and attend this hybrid meeting. For those who can attend in-person, there will be a dutch-treat lunch. Pizza and salad will be available for \$10 (cash/check made out to LWVSNM). All attendees, **please RSVP to Kathie**, even if you don't want to eat or are joining on Zoom. **We'll need RSVPs by Wed., June 14.**

The Visioning Lab is critical in how we'll continue marching forward on the path to strengthen our Democracy.

▪ *Jo Galván Nash*

New Members' Orientation

Members recently received a flyer announcing the June Orientation. It's for new members and existing members, too. Join us from 9:30-10:30 am, Saturday, June 10 via Zoom. [Contact Jo Galvan Nash](#) if you can attend; an email with the Zoom link will be sent to you.

o *continued page 4*

Co-Presidents' Communiqué (cont.)

contains the results of the 2023 Membership Survey. Please take time to study the results. Regrettably, there were only 24 of our 105 members who responded; we'll discuss ways to improve the response rate in future years. However, many good suggestions were received.

In the meantime, what we learned is that our members prefer the League focus on these top eight areas, and in this priority: elections/voting rights; education/youth; democracy issues/threats; energy/environment/climate; safety/violence prevention; social justice; reproductive rights; and local/state governance. (Other topics were also mentioned.)

Finally, please send our Treasurer your 2023/24 dues: [pay online](#) or mail your check to LWVSNM, P.O. Box 15142, Las Cruces, NM 88004. It's \$65 for individual members, \$32.50 for a second household member, and free to enrolled students 16 years of age or older (see last page). Dues are tax-deductible.

As always, thank you for being a partner with the League of Women Voters.

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



STILL IN SEARCH OF

Committee Members: LWV needs a **Library** position chair, currently handled by [Kathy Brook](#). Kathy is now a state co-president and she needs assistance. Or, join the committee that will work on the Library position! Other committees can also benefit from your help: **Development Committee** ([contact Nancy Stanton](#)); the **Membership Committee** ([contact Kate Mangelsdorf](#)), **Public Relations** ([contact Jo Nash](#)).

Historians: Beginning in July, we'll need two volunteers to be the League Historians. Essentially, it's a matter of collecting League materials throughout the year (such as *The Voter*, OpEds, Board minutes and the Budget) and placing them into the NMSU Archives next spring.

Observer Corp: Watch and report on 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 interest.

Upcoming Calendar Events

JUNE 2023

Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month; Gay and Lesbian Pride Month

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

June 6, Tues.: **LWV Housing Committee**, 3:30, Zoom, contact [Beth Bardwell](#) to join or attend.

June 8, Thurs.: **LWV Education Committee**, 4:30 pm, Zoom, [contact Eileen VanWie](#) to join or attend.

June 10, Sat.: **New Members Orientation**, 9:30 am, Zoom; [email Jo Galvan Nash](#) if you plan to attend. All members welcome!

June 14, Wed.: **Flag Day**

June 14, Wed.: **DEADLINE to RSVP** for the **2023 Visioning Lab**, held Sat., June 17, 9:30 am- 1:30 pm, DACC Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada. [RSVP to Kathe Kanim](#) by **June 14** if you're attending, **whether you eat or not**; Dutch-treat lunch \$10.

June 18, Sun.: **Fathers' Day**

June 19, Mon.: **Reg. Board Meeting**, 5:30 pm, Zoom [contact Kathe if you want to attend](#).

June 22, Thurs.: **LWV Education Committee**, 4:30 pm, Zoom, [contact Eileen VanWie](#) to join or attend.

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 and

TBA, Co-Director

Kate Mangelsdorf – Membership Director

Eileen VanWie & Josie Miller – Youth Engagement

Co-Directors

TBA – Public Relations Director

&

Nancy Stanton – Development Chair

Jo Galván Nash – The Voter Editor

Mary Flynn, Chair, Johnnie Aldrich and Kate

Mangelsdorf, Members – Nominating Committee

Josie Miller and Jamie Patterson – Historians

Claudia Powell & Cindy Broughton – Otero Unit

Liaisons

LWV Otero Unit - Off & Running

The 16-member Otero County unit (OCU) quickly organized over the past couple of months and has been busy ever since. In addition to being involved with and hosting a reception for the Making Democracy Work Award honoree, members have been visible at several community events. OCU members worked a table at Alamogordo's Earth Day celebration where they informed the public about the League and registered voters. They also attended a Cinco de Mayo celebration and the Para de Gente (For the People) event where they did outreach with the other booths and non-profits.

OCU is already establishing new partnerships: one with a local Girl Scout Troop to help them earn badges; another with an NMSU-Alamogordo history professor who will work with the League on a Constitution Day event in September; another with the Juneteenth leadership; and another with the Holloman AFB Installation Voting Officer.

The Unit now has regular meetings; the latest was a potluck dinner in High Rolls. Sue Preslar and Claudia Powell have sent out letters throughout the area, inviting residents to join the OCU. In recent days, two new members from Alamogordo joined their team!

The LWVSNM also appointed Claudia Powell and Cindy Broughton to be the liaisons to the League Board, and Tom Krajci (see page 6) has been at Board meetings several times. In addition, Nadia Sikes joined Las Cruces members as one of the delegates from LWVSNM at the April state convention.

We expect to share many more exciting activities from our members in the adjoining county.

—Jo Galván Nash, Co-President



Photos, counterclockwise:

- A new Girl Scout troop will be working with LWVSNM Otero Unit so the girls can earn democracy badges.
- Otero Unit Liaison Cindy Broughton worked on registering new voters. Most of the interest was from those who needed to change their addresses or who were new and had moved into the area.
- The LWV table was full of materials for strong voter outreach.
- Claudia Powell, Otero Unit Liaison, spoke with a Washington Post correspondent.



Photos courtesy of Tom Krajci, Otero Unit

Tell Your Story — Literacy Enrichment

Josie Miller and Eileen VanWie participated with five different groups (about 100 sixth- and seventh-grade Vista Middle School students) on May 4th during their literacy enrichment. We shared with the students how a bill becomes a law and how to write postcards of thanks to elected officials. Josie created a slide deck with visuals to assist with the learning process. This included a sample postcard to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham.

Two new laws relevant to the students from the 2023 Legislative session were shared: the Healthy Universal School Meals and the Official State Aroma Roasting Green Chile. This included a video when Governor Lujan Grisham came to Monte Vista Elementary School to sign the State Aroma law.

Fifth-graders at the school had met with Senator Bill Soules prior to the Legislative session. They talked about laws that represent cultural heritage in the state, such as the nickname (Land of Enchantment), the official bird (roadrunner), and the state cookie (biscochitos). The students asked why there wasn't a state smell. Sen. Soules sponsored the bill and fifth-graders testified in favor of it, saying it could help NM chile farmers and tourism.



On left is Eileen VanWie and right is Josie Miller leading discussions with students.



We thanked the middle school students for contributing to our community by writing about 100 postcards thanking the Governor for signing the law that will provide high-quality free breakfasts and lunches to all public school students in New Mexico. With the new law, schools will also have to seek ways to reduce food waste.

▪ *Josie Miller and Eileen VanWie
Co-Directors, LWVSNM Youth Engagement*

Orientation (cont.)

The Orientation will cover several subjects within one hour: a brief history of the League, why we have “Programs” and “Positions,” and how members can offer their talents in a variety of voluntary activities. Your questions and your expectations are also important! Before you arrive, you may want to consider how you'd like to invest your volunteer time, for example: registering voters, joining a committee that will [update the League positions](#), helping with translation, working on the affordable housing committee, writing OpEds for the newspapers, joining the Development Committee, etc.

The Orientation is also a good time to meet other members (albeit we are meeting via Zoom). We know there is at least one other civic group gathering on this date, but we plan to be wrapped-up in time for you to attend both sessions.

Attend a Board Meeting from Time to Time

Don't forget, any League member is welcome to attend LWVSNM board meetings.

Whenever you want to attend, just notify Co-President Kathe Kanim in advance; she will send you an email with the Zoom meeting link.

LWVSNM Board Meeting times have changed:

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 3rd Mondays of the month at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Development Committee Becomes Reality

An unexpected gift came to the League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico when Nancy Stanton renewed her membership this year after a brief absence from Las Cruces. She immediately agreed to volunteer as chairwoman of the new LWVSNM Development Committee.

So, you ask, what is development? It's about developing our relationships within the community. That could be through collaboration with businesses, civic groups, non-profits, government, and individuals which result in financial contributions, partnerships, and support.



Nancy Stanton

While the League budget is solid, it is quite lean particularly when it comes to costs for important projects. For example, printing costs for the two League Voters' Guides continue to increase. Even though funds are tight, the League needs to sustain important projects that foster improved voter turnout. With Nancy's expertise and leadership, LWVSNM will be able to chart out how we can garner donations and get others to be aware of, and be active in, our mission.

You'll hear from Nancy in the coming months. In the meantime, [please reach out to her](#) if you can help in this new effort.

▪ Jo Galván Nash

LWV Member Pens OpEd

[Editor's Note: Terry did not send this newspaper OpEd on behalf of the LWVSNM, but as a member of our organization we thought you'd like to read his opinion.]

As I listen to media and lawmakers debate about birth control, I realize that the man is the only one who should prevent pregnancies. In 1972, I returned from serving in Vietnam and was preparing to marry. The priest who counseled us suggested that since I was still in the Military it would be unwise to start a family and that we should use suitable alternatives.

After reading "Ejaculate Responsibly: a Whole New Way to Think About Abortion" by Gabrielle Blair, I am even more convinced that the burden of accountability should be placed solely on the man.

Here are some facts. While men are fertile 100% of the time, 90% of birth control focuses on women. Beliefs that birth control for men such as condoms make sex less pleasurable and that vasectomies remove a man's manhood are still widely held in our culture, thus continuing to place responsibility on the woman.

It should be a woman's choice to become a mother, and a man's responsibility to prevent unwanted pregnancies. It is my belief that government and religion have the issue backwards. When men take responsibility, there will likely be no more unwanted pregnancies!

▪ Terry Kebbel

American Poem Removed from Schools

"We are striving to forge our union with purpose.

To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man.

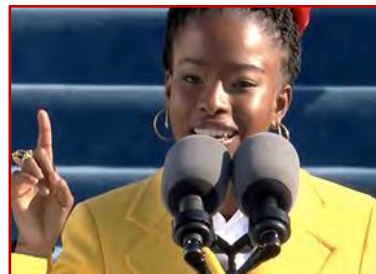
And so we lift our gaze, not to what stands between us, but what stands before us.

We close the divide because we know to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside."

—Excerpt from "The Hill We Climb"

You'll recall "The Hill We Climb", a spoken word poem written by American poet laureate Amanda Gorman. It was recited by her at the inauguration of Joe Biden in 2021. Just recently, the book version of the poem was tied to the latest book ban in Miami-Dade County, FL. It has been removed from an elementary school.

Have you ever read the poem? [Click here to read it again, or for the first time, in its entirety.](#) Then, ask yourself whether it's appropriate for elementary students.



Amanda Gorman

**Don't Forget:
Follow the**



Instagram:

[@lwvsnm](#)

Facebook:

[lwvsnm](#)

LET'S MEET LWVSNM MEMBER ... Tom Krajci

I joined the League to contribute to my community. But what exactly is my community? Today I live in the Sacramento Mountains, surrounded by national forest. It's a wonderful wildlife community. But, we need to back up....

I was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I didn't stay there long. My family moved often. In response to that, I joined the Air Force and did more moving about. Eight years in Germany were historically tumultuous as we watched the Berlin Wall fall. Of course, peace didn't break out for long. Saddam

invaded Kuwait, and the Balkans erupted in ethnic cleansing. I came back to the 'States in '96, but a few months after the 9-11 attack the phone rang. "Do you still speak Russian?" So, I spent two years in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. I worked intelligence in the Air Force - information to warfighters and commanders.

In retirement I chose Cloudcroft to pursue, under starry skies, a hobby that had gotten somewhat serious. I was a citizen scientist collecting data about stars and collaborating with professional astrophysicists. My name is in the author list of over 100 scientific papers in referred journals. I collected information that broadened our understanding of the clockwork of the universe.

My third career is aviation. You have to cram lots of new information into your skull. On top of that, judgment is important to assess, and mitigate risk. As a glider pilot, Mother Nature is my engine. You study clouds and terrain, but you're making decisions with incomplete, imperfect information. Sometimes that's humbling, but sometimes it's incomparably rewarding.

Becoming an instructor pilot offered new challenges and responsibilities. Sitting behind the student, I had only a few cues as to their mental and physical state. Ultimately, I had to decide if the student was ready to fly solo. Did I judge their proficiency properly? Setting them off on their first solo was thrilling for many, and a bit nerve wracking for me.

I developed a global outlook in the Air Force, and so many years overseas made it easy to lose touch with a sense of community back home. It was fascinating being a mountain telescope hermit. My community at that time was a small population of amateur and professional astronomers scattered around the globe. Soaring raises my feet off the ground, but it also gradually awakened me to the local community through my students.

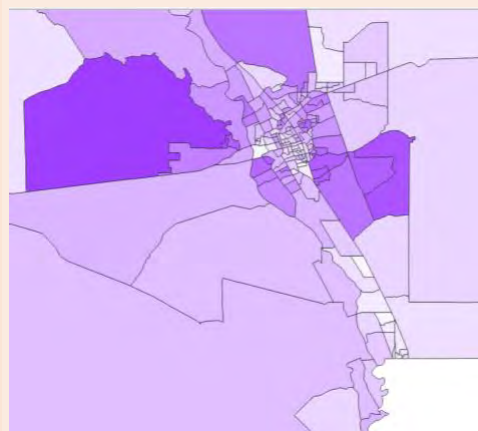
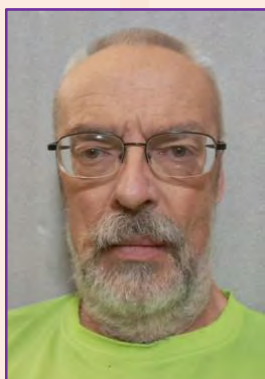
A thread running through my life has been information ... collecting, analyzing, fusing...
...and disseminating.

Disseminating is a skill I am always working on. What does the audience need? In what form? What feedback can I get? Who else needs to know? This is always an active process, and it's not just transmitting, it's also seeking feedback and ideas. Those things can come from anywhere. A person over 1,000 miles away suggested steps to take to learn how to plot voting data on maps.

In some ways my community is rather small. In some ways it's as large as my imagination and curiosity propel me.

I hope that the information I share with my community is useful.

—Tom Krajci
Otero Unit Member



At left, Tom provides an "action" picture of his life ... a map showing the voter turnout rate (all parties), so this is a non-partisan map of political activity/engagement in voting precincts from Las Cruces

to Sunland Park and extending east to Chaparral. The lighter color is the lower turnout rate, and the darker is the higher rate. This is based on publicly available data, and the mapping software is free, open source. In other words, it's available to anyone with a computer and the Internet.

Education Committee's May 11 Meeting

Members: Jane Asche, Kathy Brook, Rebecca Courtney, Patricia Johnson, Kate Mangelsdorf, Josie Miller, Jo Galván Nash, Elisa Sanchez, Eileen VanWie

LWVSNM members of the Education Committee plan to be civically engaged on a monthly basis with the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education. At our May 11 meeting, we developed talking points for presentation at the LCPS Board meeting on May 23, regarding their recently updated Policy now called *Bilingual Education & English Language Acquisition*. It describes “emergent bilingual students,” which not only includes English Language Learners, but as a goal for all students. It sees language as a resource and asset. Along with policies, the District develops “Regulations” that describe processes to use to accomplish the policy. We did not find this component for the *Bilingual Education* policy and will be offering support in developing it. Thank you to Elisa Sánchez for agreeing to present it and to Jane Asche for being there for support.

The book *Schools of Opportunity* (2023), developed by the National Education Policy Center at the University of Colorado, is being used to learn more about research-based models of equity for high quality school systems. To be recognized as a “school of opportunity,” schools must meet the first two criteria and select at least four more from the total of 10 criteria.

The Committee talked about criterion one and Chapter 1, a school that does an “exemplary” job of criterion one. Criterion one has two parts (a. reduce or eliminate tracking and ability grouping and b. provide enriching and deepening learning opportunities). At the high school described in Chapter 1, Long Island, New York, challenging curriculum that is rigorous, enriching, and **supported** for all students, using differentiated and constructivist learning, is provided. When administrators and the Board got push back from parents about detracking, their concerns were respectfully heard, and administrators committed to monitoring progress to ensure high quality education for all students. All students took the same challenging courses and assessments were adjusted for special circumstances. In talking about how this content could be used to improve our position statement, we decided that position statements in the *K-12 Education* section supported advocacy for rigorous differentiated curricula, including project-based learning in small groups.

The Education Committee is also continuing to edit the working draft of our education position by adding a new section about *Boards of Education and the New Mexico Public Education Department*. Next, we'll work on another new section called *Citizen Participation/Civic Engagement*. Thank you to Jo Galván Nash (*School Boards*) and Rebecca Courtney (*Citizen Participation*) for drafting these sections.

Our next scheduled Zoom meetings are: • Thursday, June 8 at 4:30 p.m.; • Thursday, June 22 at 4:30 p.m.

- Eileen VanWie, Chairwoman, LWV Education Committee



THINK ABOUT THIS

We appreciate when League members forward articles, websites or photographs that get us to think about topics that align with, or contradict, our programs and positions. This month, let's “*Think About This*” statement from the US Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel Cardona ...

“The latest data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress further affirms the profound impact the pandemic had on student learning in subjects beyond math and reading. It tells us that now is not the time for politicians to try to extract double-digit cuts to education funding, nor is it the time to limit what students learn in U.S. history and civics classes. We need to provide every student with rich opportunities to learn about America’s history and understand the U.S. Constitution and how our system of government works. Banning history books and censoring educators from teaching these important subjects does our students a disservice and will move America in the wrong direction.”

The NAACP of Doña Ana County met on May 20, 2023. The guest speaker was Mayor Pro Tem Kassandra Gandara.

Councilor Gandara has announced she's running for mayor. If she wins, she'll be the first Latina and female mayor of Las Cruces. *[Editor's Note: LWVSNM does not endorse or support any candidate in any political race.]*

Most of the discussion between attendees and Councilor Gandara was about an upcoming work session of the City Council with the topic of a Citizens' Safety Review Board as the first item on the agenda.

Councilor Gandara said she's not convinced that a review board is needed. Things such as the hiring of an inspector general for the City and revising the contract with OIR to include the review of "excessive use of force" incidents could help address citizens' concerns. (Note: The OIR currently reviews issues with policing but does not review use-of-force events.) The Councilor also said there is an existing committee, the Public Safety Select Committee, that might be modified to address police transparency issues.

Attendees pointed out that the Public Safety Select Committee has only closed meetings without access to minutes. Councilor Gandara said she wants to hear input at the Monday work session before making a decision on some issues.

Officers' reports were also given.

Meanwhile, Dr. Bobbi Green gave the outline of activities for the Juneteenth celebration. There will be events Thursday, Friday and Saturday such as a jazz concert and a block party on the downtown mall. The annual banquet is 6:00 pm on Saturday, June 17, at the Las Cruces Convention Center. (See the poster.) Tickets for the banquet are at: <https://naacpdac.org/>

Dr. Green also announced that the student NAACP chapter at NMSU is being reactivated.

- Jennifer Kreie

Member of the NAACP DAC chapter and LWVSNM

Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium Art Exhibit

Trinity: Legacies of Nuclear Testing – A People's Perspective

Begins 11:00 on Saturday, July 15, 2023
Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main Street
7:30 pm - annual Candlelight Vigil at
Albert Johnson Park, 800 N. Main Street

The Art Exhibit and Candlelight Vigil will help educate about the effects suffered by the people of New Mexico, and beyond, as a result of radiation exposure and the need to include New Mexico in the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act which is now scheduled to sunset in July 2024. For more information about downwinders visit trinitydownwinders.com.

- Mary Martinez-White, LWV Member and TBDC

UPCOMING GOVT. MEETINGS

LC City Council: June 5, June 12 (wrksess), June 20, June 26 (wrksess), July 3, and July 10 (wrksess); all at 1:00 p.m., City Hall

County Commission: June 13, June 27, July 11, and July 25; all at 9:00 am, DAC Govt. Ctr.

LCPS School Board: June 20, 6 pm (LCPS Admin. Bldg.); June 22 (public forum at Organ Mountain HS), 6 pm

Juneteenth 2023 Banquet

NAACP

Dona 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/>

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS
Joint Meeting with 22/23 and 23/24 Boards
Monday, April 17, 2023 • Zoom 5:00-6:30 PM

Discussion and Action

Meeting Changes (Incoming Board)

1. When should the Board meet?
The question may be answered once responses to the survey questionnaire are received. Board meeting start times were changed for both Board meetings (first and third Mondays) to 5:30 p.m. The first Monday for one hour, and the third Monday for one and a half hours.
2. Brief Reports
J. Galván Nash suggested brief rotating reports from Committees as part of ongoing regular Board meeting agendas. The reports would be concise reports that could become part of the consent agenda if sent to Board members in their agenda meeting packets prior to the meeting.
 - a. LWVSNM Actions – Jo Nash and Kathe Kanim
 - b. Education – Eileen VanWie
 - c. Housing – Beth Bardwell
 - d. Library – Find a Co-chair with Kathy Brook
 - e. Voter Services – Dale Yeo
 - f. Membership – Kate Mangelsdorf
 - g. Youth Engagement – Josie Miller and Eileen
 - h. PR Director – TBA
 - i. Development Chair – TBA
 - j. Nominating committee – Appoint Board member
 - k. Historians – Updated job description with timelines is needed
3. Consent Agendas
Consent agenda items will be forwarded to the Board prior to board meetings. The Board is asked to review materials sent in advance. Treasurer’s reports, Committee written reports instead of oral reports, upcoming meetings, announcements, etc. are the type of agenda items that could become part of a consent agenda.
4. General Meetings - Are eight meetings needed?
There was much discussion about the number of general meetings to hold and how to conduct them including: fewer meetings; general meetings every other month with unit meetings in between (unit meetings could discuss position descriptions); at least one meeting joined with other civic groups (particularly during women’s history month).

Minutes: There was much discussion regarding the minutes. The minutes are not archived at the NMSU Archives, but *The Voter*, which has the summary highlights of the minutes, is archived. The Secretary’s Position Description/profile was revised last year to indicate that the “set of approved meeting minutes at year-end [go] to the President to place in the Archive File”. The Board plans to pursue online access of the minutes by all League members.

Schedule Visioning Lab: The Visioning Lab is typically held the 3rd week in June. Instead, the Board agreed to hold the Visioning Lab on June 17, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., in lieu of the general meeting. (The Lab will include lunch). Unlike other years all League members can participate in the Visioning Lab.

Nominating Committee Appointment: A motion was made by D. Yeo to appoint Kate Mangelsdorf to the 2024 Nominating Committee; it was seconded by L. Marquez. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

**SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS
SHORT BOARD MEETING**

Monday, May 1, 2023 • 5:30-6:30pm • Via Zoom

1. **Adoption of Revised Survey:** J. Galván Nash presented a revised membership survey that would go to the membership by May 2, 2023, for completion, with a return date for responses two weeks later. The survey was reviewed and several revisions were made. A motion was made by K. Brook to approve the revised survey, and seconded by E. VanWie. The motion carried unanimously. The results of the survey will be discussed at a future meeting once responses are received.
 2. **Vice President Report/Meeting Topics**
 - a. **May 13, 2023, Saturday, General Meeting, 2:00 p.m.:** K. Kanim reported that this general meeting will be a pre-Visioning lab session with the membership where we will get input from members about plans for the coming year.
 - b. **June 17, 2023, Saturday, Visioning Lab, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.:** K. Kanim reported that the DACC Workforce Center has been reserved. The Board and all membership will be invited to attend. Pizza and salad will be ordered for lunch for those that RSVP.
 - c. **August 12, Saturday, General Meeting, date and time TBA:** K. Kanim reported that L. Castille is organizing a library panel discussion that will help the League obtain information to update its Branigan Library position. The date and time for the panel discussion is yet to be determined and may depend on the survey responses. LWV may meet with other organizations, e.g., the AAUW, NAACP, etc.
 3. **Treasurer's Report**
 - a. **Follow-up to 2023/24 Adopted Budget:** L. Marquez reported that she met with K. Brook and J. Galván Nash to review the budget. **Action Item:** L. Marquez will re-send the budget report to annual meeting participants.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report Format and Review of April 2023 Report:** The Board reviewed the April Treasurer's report where a few corrections were discussed. The date of the April report should be for the end of April as it will correspond to the required end of year report.
 - c. **El Paso Electric Grant:** L. Marquez reported that there are two filing windows for the El Paso Electric Grant – May 10 and September 23, 2023. **Action Item:** The Board consensus is that the grant application will be applied for by the September 23rd deadline. Volunteers to work on the grant application: L. Marquez and K. Brook.
 2. ***Secretary Business:** E. Jaramillo will send all approved Board minutes from last year (since she became Board Secretary) to J. Galván Nash for eventual posting to the League website.
- A. NEW BUSINESS:**
1. Otero County Unit (OCU) Business: C. Broughton reported: OCU worked a table at Alamogordo's Earth Day celebration where they informed the public about the League and registered voters; OCU plans a Cinco de Mayo celebration; are starting official meetings at potluck dinners.
 2. Review/Discussion of Draft Policy VIII, Formation of Unit Groups Within the League: The Board briefly reviewed the draft Unit Policy. C. Broughton will discuss the policy with OCU members, and the Board is asked to send comments to J. Galván Nash and K. Kanim prior to the next meeting.
 3. A motion was made by E. VanWie to appoint L. Marquez as auditor of the League's 2022-2023 books, and seconded by K. Kanim. The motion passed unanimously. L. Marquez accepted the new assignment, and plans to get the assignment completed by June 10, 2023.

C. ADJOURNMENT

K. Brook made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by E. VanWie. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.



LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Meeting

May 1, 2023

Observer: Kathy Brook

A resolution was approved to support city staff in providing education and referral information to citizens regarding substance abuse treatment options within our community. Some Councilors also expressed interest in seeing medication-assisted treatment in the detention center.

A resolution was also approved adopting funding priorities and allocations to various Las Cruces nonprofit organizations for FY 2024. Almost \$600,000 was allocated from the Telshor Fund. In the course of the discussion, it was noted that there are currently four vacancies on the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee for the city.

Another resolution was approved concerning the 2023 action plan as part of the 2021-2025 consolidated plan. This is focused on housing and community development needs identified in the consolidated plan.

LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Work Session

May 8, 2023

Observer: Kathy Brook

The first topic was a presentation on Neighborwoods, a tree planting program, by a representative of Tree New Mexico. In Albuquerque, 5,000 trees have been planted in the past five years through Neighborwoods. The focus is on underserved areas and trees appropriate to the climate.

The New Mexico Legislative Update included a report by Larry Horan, the city's lobbyist, who followed 192 bills during the session. In particular, he noted significant changes in leadership before and early in the session and the number of new members in both chambers. Capital outlay this time will be covered from the general fund with no bonds issued. Exclusion of changes in business pyramiding under the gross receipts tax served the interests of municipal governments who would have lost significant revenues. There is funding for housing in the budget.

There was also an update on the East Lohman Development.

LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Meeting

May 15, 2022

Observer: Kathy Brook

An amendment to the Planned Unit Development (PUD) concept plan for Mesilla Valley Community of Hope was approved. The amendment includes newly acquired property and the newly adopted master plan for Community of Hope. A resolution concerning renovations of Oak St. apartments by MVPHA was tabled until the June 5 meeting. There was also extensive discussion concerning a zoning change at 4003 Tellbrook with a focus on consistency or inconsistency of the proposed change with Elevate Las Cruces. In other business, grants awarded to the city were approved along with the municipal budget and the capital improvement program for 2023-2024.

In board appointments, League member Ruth Jaure was appointed to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.



LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Work Session

May 22, 2023

Observer: Kathy Brook

Civilian police oversight commission (CPOC): For those wanting to view this discussion, the topic starts about 27 minutes into the meeting.

Radio talk show host Peter Goodman started with a brief discussion of the death of Amelia Baca, including the lack of reporting to the community more than a year later. He argued that a board would bring the public into the process. He supports a diverse board which brings varying perspectives and noted that what we are doing now is “a spectacular failure.” This would be an advisory committee, not an organizational unit of city government. This can be done under the charter if the council desires. Oversight can help with police accountability.

Dr. Earl Nissen, local resident, discussed the use of such advisory groups in other locales with no two boards being identical. Councilors had been provided with reports from several communities including Boulder, CO and Davis, CA. Budget would include salary for an independent monitor, transcribing of minutes of the meetings of the review board, and expansion of the OIR contract.

Dr. Bobbie Green, president of Doña Ana County NAACP, noted that there is a cost, including monetary cost, to what we are doing now as illustrated by closed and ongoing lawsuits relating to use of force. As a representative of the DAC-NAACP, she has requested a DOJ investigation of an incident in 2021.

Daniel Williams, ACLU of NM reported that in oversight groups, ACLU looks for such features as independent board membership, broad scope, independent investigatory authority, due process for officers; secure funding; public access to reporting. Any action around oversight is only one piece of the puzzle related to policing. Others relevant to Las Cruces include action on use of force (use force only as necessary); no use of force where the person poses a threat only to themselves; adjustment of force as risk of harm abates; opportunities to reduce interactions with the police – e.g., Project LIGHT in Las Cruces.

Councilor questions included availability of data concerning the impact of these boards. It was suggested that lack of access to HR files may reduce the effectiveness of such a body. There was a request from a councilor for a work session on existing police processes, including use of force and the disciplinary system. There was also reference to inclusion of a sample of use of force situations and use of deadly force incidents in the OIR contract.

Public input: several people emphasized the need for greater transparency concerning the police department and building trust between the police and the public.

Other topics included in the work session were the natural gas and energy line of business (covering procurement of gas and the energy transition plan). Natural gas is operated as a nonprofit funded only by fees from customers. There was also an update on ground ambulance transport.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION • Regular Meeting

May 23, 2023

Observer: Jo Galván Nash

Public Input: Resident Terry Miller said she educated herself with a better understanding on the many duties of BOCC members. She said each commissioner represents a huge area with 220,000 residents and a large budget. She voiced her gratitude “for the time, effort and dedication” on making DAC a great place to live. Many people agreed and stood as they applauded.

—continued next page



BOCC cont.

Meanwhile, parents, School Board members of the Gadsden Independent School District (GISD) and Superintendent Travis Dempsey attended the BOCC meeting seeking approval of an agreement for sheriff deputies to be GISD School Resource Officers (SRO). Dempsey said GISD and parents want armed officers on their children’s campuses (including Chaparral and Sunland Park). This issue has been contentious in past meetings, as the sheriff has not fully agreed that deputies should take this role (rather than security personnel) and that her department is not fully staffed. Sheriff Kim Stewart was not in attendance at this meeting.

After considerable discussion the BOCC agreed that contract development will continue among County management, the Sheriff, and GISD; Commissioner Sanchez was concerned because the contract development process would allow the County Manager, and not the BOCC, to give final approval. A motion was made so that the final draft of the MOU would be presented to the BOCC for approval. The approved motion allowed the process to continue with a vote of 5-0.

Books for LWVSNM Book Club – June 2023

We read so we know things.

BOOK CLUB MEETINGS ARE ON 1ST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

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

Selected for Meeting Date or Date Added	Books Selected for Upcoming Meetings
June 1 Moderator: Dale NOTE: To be divided into sections	The Climate Book: The Facts and the Solutions 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 <i>this book</i> , 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.
July 6 Moderator: Vicki	Indigenous Continent: The Epic Quest for North America , by Pekka Hamalainen A scholar reframes America’s founding myths from a Native perspective, focusing on the victories and contributions of Indigenous communities.
August 3	<i>We are taking August off</i>
Sept 7 Moderator: Kathy	Poverty, by America by Matthew Desmond The author reimagines the debate on poverty, making a “provocative and compelling” (NPR) argument about why it persists in America: because the rest of us benefit from it. The US, the richest country on earth, has more poverty than any other advanced democracy. Why? Why does this land of plenty allow one in every eight of its children to go without basic necessities, permit scores of its citizens to live and die on the streets, and authorize its corporations to pay poverty wages? Acclaimed sociologist Matthew Desmond draws on history, research, and original reporting to show how affluent Americans knowingly and unknowingly keep poor people poor.



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: _____

2nd 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 using PayPal or Credit Card. (An additional \$2.50 is appreciated to cover electronic fees.) Forms can be emailed to: 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 ___