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Thoughts from the LWVSNM Board

Thanks to all members and prospective members who attended the potluck social on June 7. It was a huge success! Special thanks to Shirley Armstrong who welcomed us to her home, to Nancy Stanton for organizing the raffle of gift cards from local businesses, and to Beth Bardwell for organizing and promoting the social. This event generated quite a few new members to our organization.



Kathy Brook



Photo: Rebecca Courtney

Nena Singleton (far left) and Rose Jacobs (far right) are among those who joined the League following the June social. Great conversations and delish dishes contributed to the success of the summer event. Also pictured are (l to r) Jennifer Kreie, Liz Rodriguez-Johnson, Vicky Simons and Shirley's husband.

Thanks also to Lynda St. Clair for devoting part of her summer to drafting op-ed pieces to let the public know what the League is thinking about the state of our world.

Interim legislative committees have been meeting and you can find recordings at <https://nmlegis.gov> under the Webcast tab. Check out the issues of most concern to you and consider contacting members of the legislature or their assistants to provide your perspective on issues facing the state.

A number of those issues derive from the recent passage of Congressional legislation. You can learn more about some of the impacts on New Mexico by viewing a recording from a meeting of LWV of Central New Mexico at youtube.com/watch?v=rNpbdJ7I6k8

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Healthcare Committee Begins Study, Research, Discussion on Critical Issues

The LWVSNM Healthcare Committee currently has 12 members: Shirley Armstrong, Beth Bardwell, Kayla Blanchard, Kathy Brook, Jo Galván Nash, Erika Graf-Webster, Rose Jacobs, Edwina Jaramillo, Chris Little, Judy Long, Terri Sugarman, and Joanne Turnbull (chair). To thoroughly study several aspects of the healthcare system in Doña Ana County and New Mexico, we welcome other LWVSNM members to join us at our monthly meetings. Simply email me if you're interested (turnbulljoanne@gmail.com).

As you already know, the healthcare system is complex! At our July meeting, the Healthcare Committee chose to focus our study on the four items listed below. All are priority healthcare issues but the two marked with an asterisk (*) are currently in crisis in New Mexico.

- The Provider Shortage*
- Private Equity
- Medicaid*
- Quality

To kick off the League's healthcare discussion, we're hosting the first General Membership meeting of the fiscal year on Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Doña Ana Community College Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada Ave. It will begin at 2:00 p.m. We hope many League members will attend and we'll be inviting others from throughout the community. Prior to the meeting, all League members will receive an email with a link if they cannot attend in person.

The meeting will feature a panel discussion on the provider shortage. Confirmed speakers to-date include Fred Nathan, Executive Director of *Think New Mexico* (in-person or via Zoom) and a representative of the Doña Ana Medical Society. A final agenda will be provided in September's issue of *The Voter*.



Joanne Turnbull

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Thoughts from the Board (cont.)

You might also be interested in Councilor Johana Bencomo's op-ed on immigrants in the *Santa Fe New Mexican*:

santafenewmexican.com/opinion/my_view/new-mexicans-must-stand-with-immigrants/article_857022cb-1a69-4400-9ee5-1090471cc22a.html

Many thanks to those of you who participated in the consensus meeting for the federal judiciary study in the spring. LWVUS has reviewed the responses from Leagues across the country and you can find the new position (joining existing positions on the presidency and the Congress) at <https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>.

If you are interested in learning more about the federal courts, study materials are still available online: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy-litigation/2024-2025-federal-judiciary-study-process-committee-and>

From the LWVNM board meeting in July: LWV Colorado has requested the support of LWVNM in proposing a national concurrence (at the LWVUS convention in 2026) with their position on separation of church and state. Related to this topic is the recent action by the Doña Ana County Commission to eliminate the invocation at its meetings.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

- [Kathy Brook, Board Treasurer](#)

2025/2026 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO BOARD:

Beth Bardwell – 1st Vice-President
Liz Rodriguez-Johnson – 2nd Vice President
Edwina Jaramillo – Secretary
Kathy Brook – Treasurer
Kate Mangelsdorf – Membership Director
Jo Galván Nash – Past President

Off-Board Volunteers

Social Media – Rebecca Courtney, Lucca Wang, & Kathy Brook
Voter Services Activities Coordinators - David Rice & Rebecca Courtney
Publicity Coordinator – Lynda St. Clair
Healthcare Committee – Joanne Turnbull
Education Committee – Eileen VanWie
Nominating Committee: Kate Mangelsdorf, Chair, and Rebecca Courtney & Ruth Jaure, Members
Observer Corps: Kathy Brook, Jennifer Kreie, and Patti Wojahn
Historian - Ruth Jaure
The Voter Editor & Webmaster - Jo Galván Nash



Mona Charney
Rose Jacobs
Judy Long
Sue Riba
Nena Singleton
Christa Slaton
Terri Sugarman



The June Potluck and Social was a great time to network and meet other LWVSNM members. The next scheduled social is in December when the organization invites local lawmakers to discuss legislative issues.

Upcoming Calendar Events

AUGUST 2025

- Aug. 4, Mon.: **Regular Board Meeting**, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom; all LWVSNM Members welcome; contact [Beth Bardwell](#) for a Zoom link.
- Aug. 5, Tues.: **NM Voter Services Committee**, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom; LWVSNM participation appreciated. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84231403757?pwd=rVlqaSLcYp3JGeMQqj8nfzb2ltQ1uD.1>
- Aug. 11, Mon.; **Education Committee**, 5:00 p.m., [contact Eileen VanWie](#), chairwoman, for a Zoom link.
- Aug. 15, Mon.: **Healthcare Committee**, 1:00 p.m., Las Cruces Village, Bldg. E; [contact Joanne Turnbull](#) if interested.
- Aug. 26, Tues.: **Bylaws, Policies & Procedures Committee**, 4:00 p.m., Zoom; contact Jo Nash for a Zoom link.
- Aug. 26, Tues.: [Women's Equality Day](#)

Healthcare Committee (cont.)

Meanwhile, an important meeting will be held in Las Cruces September 10-12 by the state Legislative Health & Human Services (LHHS) Interim Committee chaired by Rep. Liz Thomson. (Location to be announced later.) The committee is responsible for studying the programs, agencies, policies and needs relating to health and human services, in addition to programs and services for children, families and the aging population.

League members are encouraged to attend the Las Cruces sessions (wearing League buttons if available) to let the LHHS Committee know what issues the League cares about and tracks. When the agenda is available, we can email it to any interested member.

The link below provides a list of members, dates, and the 2025 workplan.

[https://www.nmlegis.gov/\(X\(1\)S\(rm3xpbu0w1oiqixe0w1olt1\)\)/Publications/Work_Plans/LHHSworkplan25.pdf](https://www.nmlegis.gov/(X(1)S(rm3xpbu0w1oiqixe0w1olt1))/Publications/Work_Plans/LHHSworkplan25.pdf)

The Academy for Learning in Retirement (ALR) has extended an invitation to the League to be part of an educational program on healthcare during their spring 2026 series. ALR is a volunteer organization that provides presentations on diverse topics. Working collaboratively with ALR could have a huge impact among community members. There will be more information on this in the near future.

In other news, the League's Healthcare Committee members are contacting State Senators and Representatives for the five counties served by LWVSNM (Doña Ana, Otero, Sierra, Luna, and Grant) to get their input on the shortage of providers around the state.

The next Healthcare Committee meeting is Friday, August 15th at 1 pm at Las Cruces Village (formerly Good Samaritan), Bldg. E, first floor. Please contact Joanne if you would like to join us.

▪ *Joanne Turnbull, Chair
LWVSNM Healthcare Committee
turnbulljoanne@gmail.com*

Education Cuts Must be Monitored

The League and its Education Committee are continuing to follow the impact to public education following the Trump administration's decisions to cut the U.S. Education Department and grants sent to the states, including New Mexico. Below is a link to an article Rebecca Courtney forwarded from *Source NM's* reporter Austin Fischer.

It's good to know that the NM's Congressional leaders have signed on to a letter asking Trump to lift a freeze on \$7 billion intended for student learning and more; and that New Mexico has established a Federal Funding Stabilization Subcommittee focused on responding to the impacts of funding cuts.

<https://sourcenm.com/2025/07/14/trump-administration-withholding-612m-in-education-funding-from-new-mexico/>

The Education Committee hopes to get updated information from LCPS Superintendent Ignacio Ruiz during a private luncheon they have planned in August.



Help Needed:

LWVSNM's bylaws require an annual review of our finances. We need one or two people to perform that review. Why is that important? Our procedures include a requirement for a review, and we should be complying with rules that we have set for ourselves; it is good practice. In addition, in applying for grants, we may be asked for evidence that we have conducted such a review. Kathy Brook, treasurer, can provide more information including examples of past reports.

If you can help, please contact Kathy at kathybrook@comcast.net



Las Cruces City Council • Regular Session

June 2, 2025

Observer: Jennifer Kreie

Four resolutions were discussed and passed. Two dealt with liquor licenses. One dealt with grant awards to city departments via an amendment to the City's budget. The fourth was an update to the amount developers pay the City for park development based on the size and number of units being developed.

Las Cruces City Council • Regular Session

June 16, 2025

Observer: Kathy Brook

The public participation part of the meeting included about an hour of comment by people who attended an anti-mass deportation protest on June 13, the evening before the No Kings Rally. The two events were held in the same location. Those attending on June 13 were concerned about the presence of police with long guns on roofs of surrounding buildings (the library, police and fire departments). Participants at the first event were described as being younger (including children) and less white. They said the atmosphere at the No Kings rally was much different with a few officers on bicycles. The response from the police chief was that there had been no permit for the June 13 event so that the department did not have a point of contact to communicate with prior to the event.

The Council approved an amendment to the agreement with Larry Horan for lobbying services, increasing the amount of the contract by \$3,000. It was difficult to follow the discussion and understand how the City came to the conclusion that it needed to increase the amount; Mr. Horan had not requested an increase.

The Council also approved unanimously a destruction policy for Police Department video. Video has been retained indefinitely back 15 years. Once it is part of a case, it is retained but with this action there will be automatic destruction of items which have met the state records retention schedule (which provides for retention for three years after the case is closed). Staff time and space are the issues the department is trying to address.

Las Cruces City Council • Regular Session

July 7, 2025

Observer: Jennifer Kreie

Six resolutions passed:

- Liquor license request for Jim Bob's BBQ at the airport.
- Amendments to the collective bargaining agreement between the City and LCPD.
- Acceptance of grant awards to various city departments.
- Amendment to the FY2026-2031 capital improvements program.
- Two amendments to the Metropolitan Redevelopment Area Plan that encompasses a section of El Paseo and South Solano.

Las Cruces City Council • Regular Session

July 21, 2025

Observer: Kathy Brook

The Council voted in support of resolutions:

- Making budget adjustments for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026;
- Submitting the quarterly financial report to the NM Department of Finance and Administration (required before DFA accepts the City's budget for the current fiscal year); and
- Approving the FY 26 annual internal audit plan.

Several councilors complimented Councilor Bencomo on her July 19, 2025, op-ed, "New Mexicans must stand with immigrants," in the *Santa Fe New Mexican*.

Treasurer's Report for June 2025

By Kathy Brook, Treasurer

Beginning Bank Balance, May 24, 2025	\$12,626.71
New Income	\$2,208.68
Dues and member donations	\$1,628.68
Raffle Proceeds, potluck social	\$580.00
New Expenses	\$1,934.37
Dues payments to LWVUS	\$300.00
Directors and Officers Insurance	\$846.00
LCPS donation for teaching grants	\$676.00
Supplies (health care committee)	\$112.37
Ending balance, June 24, 2025	\$12,891.02

Designated Funds (included in bank balance above)	\$4,070.00
Diversity Fund (reduced by payment to LCPS)	\$1,979.00
Otero/LWVSNM	\$736.00
Youth Engagement	
Election/voter materials (increased by member donation and raffle proceeds)	\$980.00
Balance on Target e-card	\$93.04

The glitch in the new membership system has been corrected so that the LWVNM share of dues is now flowing to the LWVNM bank account rather than to the LWVSNM account.

Community Connection

GOOD READS & LINKS

Here are interesting articles, books, or videos regarding topics that are related to our League Positions and/or reflect issues associated with our advocacy.

- 1** The American Immigration Council reports “Bipartisan Group of Legislators Keep Dream of Immigration Reform Alive with Reintroduced ‘DIGNIDAD’ Act”:
<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/legislators-immigration-reform-reintroduced-dignidad-act/?emci=adccc25d-0964-f011-8dc9-6045bdfe8e9c&emdi=b3c602d9-7165-f011-8dc9-6045bdfe8e9c&ceid=11144164>
- 2** The Brennan Center for Justice released a report on “A State Agenda for Election Security and Resiliency” by Derek Tisler and Chris McIsaac. Grab a cup of coffee and spend some time reading [this important document](#).
- 3** [Analyzing the Trump Administration's Attacks on Immigrants, Democracy, and America.](#)

UPCOMING GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

LC City Council:

Aug. 4 (regular meeting); Aug. 11, (work session); Aug. 18; Aug. 25 (work session); all at 1:00 pm., City Hall

County Commission: Aug. 4 (work session); Aug. 12; Aug. 26; all meetings at 9:00 am; DAC Govt. Center.

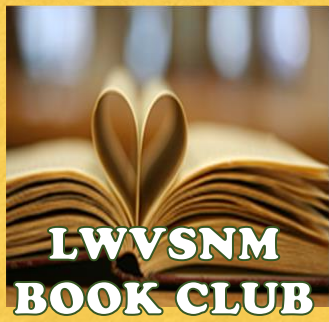
LCPS School Board: Aug. 12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., (Extended Work session); Aug. 19, 6:00 p.m.; both at Dr. Trujillo Admin. Bldg. Board Rm.

NMSU Regents: No Aug. meeting date posted; traditionally held at 3 pm, Regents Room, ESC Building, live streamed at <https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/82240874731>

Virtual Training Webinars

You may want to register for a series of virtual trainings offered by LWV. The next webinar will be Wednesday, Aug. 20, beginning at 10:30 a.m. MT. The session is “Understanding the Three Branches of Government.” See the schedule for the sessions:

https://events.lwv.org/event/DemocracyInYourHands/agenda?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engaginetworks&utm_campaign=uniterisemember&utm_content=2025.06.16%20UR%20Member%20Email



The book club meetings are on the 1st Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m. If you want to participate, contact Erika at grafwebster@icloud.com

Reading Books is Good for You!

— Rachel Maddow

NOTICE: THE BOOK CLUB WILL NOT MEET IN AUGUST

Sept. 4

The Book Club for Troublesome Women: A Novel by [Marie Bostwick](#)

Margaret never really *meant* to start a book club . . . or a feminist revolution, for that matter. By 1960s standards, Margaret Ryan is living the American woman’s dream. She has a husband, three children, a station wagon, and a home in Concordia – one of Northern Virginia’s most exclusive and picturesque suburbs. Margaret is thrown for a loop when she first meets Charlotte Gustafson, Concordia’s newest and most intriguing resident. As an excuse to be in the mysterious Charlotte’s orbit, Margaret concocts a book club get-together and invites two other neighborhood women--Bitsy and Viv--to the inaugural meeting. As the women share secrets, cocktails, and their honest reactions to the controversial bestseller *The Feminine Mystique*, they begin to discover that the American dream they’d been sold isn’t all roses and sunshine--and that their secret longing for more is something they share

Oct. 3

Careless People: A Cautionary Tale of Power, Greed, and Lost Idealism by [Sarah Wynn-Williams](#)

Careless People is darkly funny and genuinely shocking...Not only does Sarah Wynn-Williams have the storytelling chops to unspool a gripping narrative; she also delivers the goods." - Jennifer Szalai, *The New York Times*. From trips on private jets and encounters with world leaders to shocking accounts of misogyny and double standards behind the scenes, this searing memoir exposes both the personal and the political fallout when unfettered power and a rotten company culture take hold. In a gripping and often absurd narrative where a few people carelessly hold the world in their hands, this eye-opening memoir reveals what really goes on among the global elite.