



## The Annual Business Meeting Set for April 11

Hello League Members! Your input is important to the success of the Annual Business Meeting. It will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 11 at the **DACC East Mesa campus** on Sonoma Ranch Blvd. It will be a hybrid meeting from the eastside DASR building, Room #232. All members have already received an electronic copy of the agenda and documents. (If you did not get yours, [contact Jo](#) right away.) Among the most important agenda items are a new slate of officers/board members, the 2026/27 budget, and the League's Positions. We ask members to print their own copies of the meeting materials. But, if you can't print at home, and you plan to attend, just let me know by April 8 and I will bring you a printed packet.

The Annual Meeting is required per our bylaws, and your participation is what's needed when casting your votes. A lot of work has gone into preparing an updated position on Public Libraries, so please read the proposed position in advance. Also, take a look at the proposed budget so the Board can address your financial questions. One area where our organization continues to struggle is filling positions on the Board and having volunteers (whether on- or off-board) to manage the traditional activities such as developing Voter Guides, sponsoring candidate forums, holding voter registration events, sponsoring the Making Democracy Work Award, and much more. The Annual Meeting is a good time to offer your name to serve in one of the vacant positions.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for reading *The Voter* and for providing information for our membership. I've enjoyed being the editor for seven years. I'm exiting the Board at the end of April and I'm excited to support the new Editor – so let's keep this 57-year-old publication going!

▪ *Jo Galván Nash, Past President/Voter Editor*

### Upcoming Calendar Events • APRIL 2026

#### Autism Acceptance Month and Stress Awareness Month

- April 1, Wed.: **April Fool's Day**
- April 2, Thurs.: **Book Club**, 3 p.m., contact [Vicki Simons](#) for a link.
- April 3, Fri.: **Good Friday** and April 5, Sun.: **Easter**
- April 6, Mon.: **League Board Mtg.**, 5 p.m., any League member is welcome to attend via Zoom; contact [Kathy Brook](#) to get a Zoom link.
- April 11, Sat.: **LWVSNM Annual Business Meeting**, 2 p.m.; DACC East Mesa campus, Building DASR, Rm. #232. A zoom link will be emailed to all members for those participating from home.
- April 13, Mon.: **League Education Committee**, 5:00 p.m., Via Zoom; contact [Kate Mangelsdorf](#) for a link.
- April 15, Wed.: **Tax Day!**
- April 17, Fri.: **League Healthcare Committee**, 1 p.m., in-person meeting at Las Cruces Village, Building E conference room; contact [Joanne Turnbull](#) to request a Zoom link.
- April 22, Wed.: **Earth Day**

## Women’s History Celebrated through Art, Conversation

LWVSNM members partnered with the Mad Hatter Gallery for a special League event on March 15 in celebration of Women’s History Month. Patti Wojahn, coordinator, Rebecca Courtney, Elisa Sánchez and others attended the event featuring presentations from a panel of women artists that included Mary Diesel, Kimberly Arellano, Penny Peace, Suzanne Kane and Amanda Jaffe. Gallery owner Penny Peace and others presented their artwork featured in the gallery’s “She Creates” exhibit.

The group also discussed the background of Women’s History Month and the League of Women Voters. The discussion also revolved around the equality issues in the art world, the value of women’s art both monetary and artistic, and the critical need for women’s art in all cultures. The event also gave the League a chance to bring some of its promotional SWAG (Stuff We All Get) to others in the community (far right photo of Patti Wojahn).

This year’s national Women’s History theme was “Leading the Change: Women Leading a Sustainable Future,” honoring the women who have and are reimagining and rebuilding systems to ensure long-term sustainability — environmental, economic, educational, and societal. It recognizes the powerful leadership of women in creating a future that is rooted in equity, justice, and opportunity for all. Women’s History Month dates back to March 8, 1857, when hundreds of women from New York City garment and textile factories rallied to protest harsh working conditions.

■ *Rebecca Courtney, Voter Services Coordinator*



*Photos by  
 Rebecca Courtney*



## LWVUS Begins Dues Notifications

Be sure to monitor your email for notices from LWV-US and LWVSNM. Beginning in the month of April, the national and local Leagues will begin sending emails notifying members when their dues should be paid. For the majority of our membership, renewing dues for 2026/27 will take place primarily in May, which is the first month of the new fiscal year. If you paid your dues in May of 2025, the national ChapterSpot membership system will automatically create a notice in May 2026 and it will be emailed to you. LWVSNM has a few members who paid mid-year; those members will be notified in late fall – one year after their renewal month.

Dues can also be paid by new members beginning May 1. Anyone who has questions about dues, the amount to pay, or how to renew online through ChapterSpot can contact [Treasurer Kathy Brook](#) or [Membership Director Kate Mangelsdorf](#).

## LWVSNM Signs Dotted No Kings Rally

Several LWVSNM members were spotted on Saturday, March 28 at the No Kings Rally at Albert Johnson Park. Many of the signs were developed as a League activity. Here are some of the photos submitted by Rebecca Courtney, who also helped and inspired others to draw their signs. There were hundreds of peaceful protestors. CNN reported that more than 3,100 rallies were expected across the country. Indivisible was the local protest sponsor. The previous Las Cruces rally was in June 2025.

Group photo at right: League Members enjoying the rally were (left to right) Patti Wojahn, Randee Greenwald, Edwina Jaramillo, Dale Yeo, and Rebecca Courtney. The women also donned their LWVSNM "Women Defend Democracy" t-shirts. Below-left: At the center of these attendees are League members Karena and Stew Oberman who have been active with voter registrations for many years.



Welcome  
New  
Members

Jay Choate

## LWVSNM COMMITTEES

If you want to know who's on which League committee, or who's involved with which activity or event, there is a list of Committees on the League's website. [CLICK HERE](#) or go to [lwvsnm.org](http://lwvsnm.org), then click on the "Members Page" menu and open the "LWVSNM Committees."

Email [lwvsnm@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsnm@gmail.com) to get your name added to one of the categories.

## REMINDER: Please Consider Volunteering

You'll see in the April Annual Meeting packet that volunteers are still needed for the Board of Directors and to organize several events in the coming year. Please reach out to [Kate Mangelsdorf, membership director](#), if you can be a chair, a co-chair, on a committee, or on the Board. Select the duties you're interested in!

Here's a chart of what's needed:

POSITION	ELECTED TERM	GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES (negotiable, based on your skills)
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	2 years	Support the President's work and help organize guest speakers/topics for general membership meetings; assist to organize Program Planning Mtg. and the Annual Meeting; serve on monthly Board meetings.
Secretary	2 years	Attend Board meetings; take minutes of meetings (not verbatim); send announcements to membership.
Youth Engagement Director	2 years	Network with schools, college, university students & staff on youth-related events, projects and voter engagement; attend monthly Board meetings.
Nominating Committee (one chairman and 1 member)	2 years	Find League members who are willing to serve on the Board and in non-elected positions with the League.
	<b>NON - ELECTED</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	1 year	Similar to the 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President position, assist with events and activities throughout the year such as the Making Democracy Work Award, the Legislative Conversation & Social, new member Orientations, voting activities.
Nominating Committee – 1 Non-Board Member	1 year	Find League members who are willing to serve on the Board and in non-elected positions with the League.
Serve as Chairperson for Committees: 1) Education; 2) Bylaws, Policies & Procedures; 3) Budget.	1 year	Chair a Committee's calendar of meetings; organize activities.
Observer Corps	1 year	Attend a governmental meeting (in-person or online) and take notes of issues that relate to the League's Program or Positions; send a brief report to the Voter Editor to be published in the newsletter.

▪ *Jo Galván Nash, Past President*

## Healthcare Committee Welcomes New Members

The Healthcare Committee of the LWVSNM did not meet in February. At the March meeting, we welcomed new member, Randee Greenwald, who has a strong background in public health nursing. We also reviewed the health-related legislation that passed and did not pass during January 2026 legislative session.

The LWVSNM Healthcare Committee's proposal for a statewide study of medical malpractice reform in New Mexico (which has been approved by both the local and state League boards) will be presented at the 2026 State Council meeting on April 12 as a recommended state study.

The LWVSNM Health Care Committee members are Shirley Armstrong, Kayla Blanchard, Kathy Brook, Broni Bruce, Erika Graf-Webster, Randee Greenwald, Chris Little, Liz Rodriguez Johnson, Terri Sugarman, Joanne Turnbull (Chair). Join us by contacting me at [turnbulljoanne@gmail.com](mailto:turnbulljoanne@gmail.com)

▪ *Joanne Turnbull, Chair*

# LWVSNM Education Committee Report

Monday, March 9, 2026

*Members: Rebecca Courtney, Julia Escarsega, Kate Mangelsdorf, Josie Miller, Patti Wojahn*

- 1) We welcomed new member Julia Escarsega and reviewed our ongoing activities such as:
  - a) LCPS School Board Observing/Reporting
  - b) Families and Youth Innovations Plus's grant Youth Homelessness Systems Improvement Observing/Reporting based on a virtual meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 3:00-4:00pm. Patti will be creating the latest reports in near future.
  - c) Legislative Advocacy: Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) and Legislative Finance Committee (LFC). We will be seeking reports from these 2 committees. Patti will check with Eileen on her contact for the LESC reports.
- 2) We reviewed one-time events:
  - a) To better track the LFC, we have plans for LFC Chair Nathan Small to join us in future Education Committee meeting (April 13<sup>th</sup> or May 11<sup>th</sup>?). Patti will continue reaching out via email and phone to schedule.
  - b) We expect to be awarded soon our LCPS Innovative Teacher grant in multicultural/multilingual education. Patti will continue to try reaching LCPS Foundation Executive Director Gena Bermudez by email and phone.
- 3) We reviewed recent committee events:
  - a) LCPS – City of Las Cruces “Know Your Local Government” Competition – March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rebecca, Kate, and Patti served as judges.
- 4) We reviewed upcoming committee activities:
  - a) **March 11<sup>th</sup>**: KTAL Radio 101.5FM - “Speak Up Las Cruces” advertising upcoming Women’s History Month event featuring Mad Hatter Gallery exhibitors and other artists on contributions of women and art (Patti & gallery owner Penny Peace)
  - b) **March 15<sup>th</sup>**: Women’s History Month event joining LWVSNM Education Committee and Mad Hatter Gallery to be held at 221 N. Main from 2:00-4:00 p.m. (Elisa, Patti, Rebecca)
  - c) **April 9<sup>th</sup>**: LCPS Spring Literacy Extravaganza at LCPS Field of Dreams from 5:00-7:00 p.m. (Patti and Elisa have volunteered. We will need to procure small gifts for kids who correctly answer questions about our history and local politics.
  - d) Rebecca and Patti will complete Eileen’s draft of Education Committee activities and actions for the 2025-2026 fiscal year (March through April 2026 activities are missing).
- 5) We discussed new chair/co-chair or other options for leading LWVSNM Education Committee meetings in new fiscal year (beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>) and decided to send out an appeal at the upcoming annual/general meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 6) Upcoming LCPS Board Meetings:
  - a) March 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at LCPS Admin. Building (Patti observing/ reporting)
  - b) April 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at LCPS Admin. Building (need observer)
  - c) May 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at LCPS Admin. Building (Patti observing/ reporting)
  - d) June 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at LCPS Admin. Building (Patti observing/reporting)
- 7) Next Education Committee meeting date(s):
  - o April 13 (Patti will lead)
  - o May 11 (committee or new chair[s]will lead)
  - o June 8 (committee or new chair[s]will lead)
  - o July 13 (committee or new chair[s]will lead)

■ *Patti Wojahn, Education Committee*



### Poll Watchers Needed

Please join the LWVSNM team of LWVSNM poll watchers. The League has again registered with the NM Secretary of State as an Election Related Organization (ELO) so that we can carry out poll watching. Poll watchers may see problems or witness well-run, honest elections. Poll watching is something we can do to support voting and well-run elections. Our observations on election day are reported to the County Clerk and the Secretary of State.

Want to help out? Contact me ([dr45236@gmail.com](mailto:dr45236@gmail.com)). Each poll watcher must be registered and credentialed anew for each election!

- *Dave Rice, LWVSNM Voter Services Member*

### The **January 2026 Legislative Session**

passed multiple laws intended to make New Mexico a more attractive place for physicians to practice and ease the provider shortage, along with several other laws, that may improve access. Patients Primero has summarized legislation that the organization and League members tracked. [Click here to read it.](#)

To read the laws in full, go to:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/>

- *Joanne Turnbull  
Chair, Healthcare Committee*

## Treasurer's Report: February 24, 2026 - March 24, 2026 By Kathy Brook, Treasurer

Beginning Balance, February 24, 2026	<b>\$11,278.61</b>
New Income	<b>\$2,156.50</b>
Dues	\$81.50
Donations	\$1,875.50
T-shirt sales	\$200.00
New Expenses	<b>\$496.00</b>
USPS, P.O. Box rent (annual) chk 1247	\$216.00
Printing for T-shirts, A&R Special Tees, chk 1248	\$280.00
, Poster Supplies for Rallies, Rebecca Courtney, chk 1246	\$198.00
Ending Balance, March 24, 2026	<b>\$12,939.11</b>

<b>Designated Funds (included in bank balance above)</b>	<b>\$3,515.00</b>
Diversity Fund	\$1,904.00
Otero/LWVSNM	\$736.00
Youth Engagement	\$375.00
Election/voter materials	
Youth Engagement or General Fund (previously listed as general fund)	\$500.00

#### Outstanding checks/commitments

Reimbursement of Kathy Brook for Zoom subscription (\$175) and for Stormweb charges (\$171.94)

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## Las Cruces City Council • Regular Session

March 3, 2026

Observer: Jennifer Kreie

This meeting was short, by council meeting standards, lasting just under 2 hours, which was a good thing for the seven NMSU students and faculty member that attended. After public input, four resolutions were passed: (1) transfer of liquor license to a new location, (2) approval to submit a grant toward installing a crossing HAWK signal on Amador near Valley (think of the flashing lights and crosswalk on University), (3) an increase of \$10,000 to a contract with Film Las Cruces, and (4) purchase of reporting service for ambulance service reimbursed by Medicaid.

**LWVSNM**



**BOOK CLUB**

**The book club meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m.  
If you want to participate, contact Vicki Simons at [vrsimons@comcast.net](mailto:vrsimons@comcast.net).**

### Books Selected for Upcoming Meetings

<p><b>April 2 (Dale)</b></p>	<p><b>The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together</b> by <a href="#">Heather McGhee</a> Heather McGhee’s specialty is the American economy—and the mystery of why it so often fails the American public. From the financial crisis of 2008 to rising student debt to collapsing public infrastructure, she found a root problem: racism in our politics and policymaking. But not just for people of color. Racism is the common denominator of our most vexing public problems, the core dysfunction of our democracy and constitutive of the spiritual and moral crises that grip us all. McGhee embarks on a deeply personal journey across the country, tallying what we lose when we buy into the idea that progress for some of us must come at the expense of others.</p>
<p><b>May 7 (Vicki)</b></p>	<p><b>Motherland: A Feminist History of Modern Russia, from Revolution to Autocracy</b> by Julia Ioffe <i>Named on several Best Books of 2025 lists.</i> Journalist Julia Ioffe was deeply disappointed when she briefly returned to her native Russia in 2009. Though female doctors in her family stretched back three generations, the Soviet commitment to women’s equality had dramatically eroded. Ioffe decided to find out why and “the result is an enthralling narrative,” a feminist history of post-revolutionary Russia that’s eye-opening before it reaches an unsparingly bleak portrait of the present. Ioffe turns modern Russian history on its head, telling it exclusively through the stories of its women.</p>

## NAACP-DAC Chapter Monthly Report

3/21/2026

The featured speaker at this meeting was Julia Brown, who is a write-in candidate for County Commission, District 3. Julia first spoke about the women's history month in March. She explained why she is a write-in candidate. She will not participate in the primaries; in the general election voters must write-in her name: Julia T Brown. Her campaign email is: [juliabrown4countycommission@gmail.com](mailto:juliabrown4countycommission@gmail.com)

Meanwhile, plans were discussed to host a forum of county sheriff candidates.

The April meeting will be on the 25th in conjunction with the NMSU student chapter of the NAACP. The meeting will start at 11 AM and will be in the Doña Ana room in Corbett Center at NMSU.

▪ *Jennifer Kreie, NAACP and LWVSNM member*

### UPCOMING GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

#### LC City Council:

April 6; April 16; April 13 (work session); April 20; April 23-State of the City Address; all at 1:00 pm., City Hall

County Commission: April 7 (work session); April 14; April 28; all meetings at 9:00 am; DAC Govt. Center

LCPS School Board: April 7 (cancelled); April 21, 6:00 p.m.; at Dr. Trujillo Admin. Bldg. Board Rm., Loretto Towne Center

### GRADUATIONS - LAS CRUCES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

All ceremonies at NMSU Pan American Center



#### Friday, May 22

**Mayfield High, 9 AM**

**Arrowhead Park Early College High, 1:30 PM**

**Las Cruces High, 6:00 PM**

#### Saturday, May 23

**Centennial High, 9 AM**

**Rio Grande Preparatory Institute, 1:30 PM**

**Organ Mountain High, 6:00 PM**



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

OPEN – President/Co-President

OPEN – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

Liz Rodriguez-Johnson – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Edwina Jaramillo – Secretary

Kathy Brook – Treasurer

Kate Mangelsdorf – Membership Director

Jo Galván Nash – Past President

OPEN – Voter Services Director

OPEN – Youth Engagement Director

OPEN – PR Director

**Off-Board Volunteers**

Social Media – Rebecca Courtney & Kathy Brook

Voter Services Activities Coordinators – David Rice & Rebecca Courtney

Publicity Coordinator – Lynda St. Clair

Healthcare Committee Chair – Joanne Turnbull

Education Committee Chair – Patti Wojahn

Nominating Committee: Kate Mangelsdorf, Chair, and Rebecca Courtney & Ruth Jaure, Members

Observer Corps: Kathy Brook and Jennifer Kreie

Historian - Ruth Jaure

Webmaster - Jo Galván Nash

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