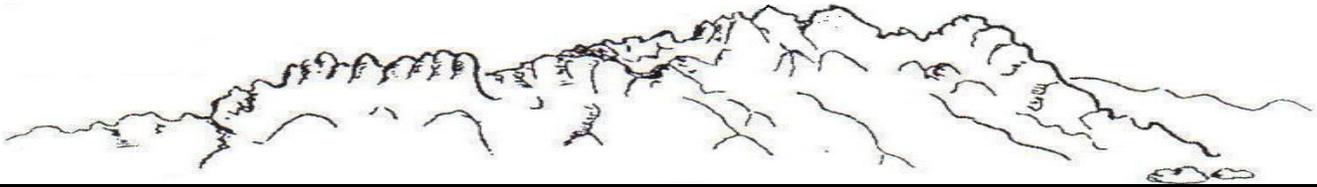


The VOTER

League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
Web Site: www.lwvglc.org
December 2010



Breakfast with the Legislators - Saturday, December 11 2010 Good Samaritan Social Center, Main Dining Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, 9 a.m.

Letters of invitation have been sent to the Doña Ana County 12-member state legislative delegation. The state senators were not up for election on November 2, but representatives to the state House of Representatives were. There are two changes, Terry McMillan (R-District 37) and Ricky L. Little (R-District 53). We want to thank Representatives Jeff Steinborn and Nate Cote for their service to our community during their terms in office.

Having breakfast with members of our legislative delegation gives us an opportunity to learn about the issues they pursued in the 2010 legislative sessions and the plans they have for the 2011 sixty-day session that begins on January 18 and ends on March 19. We, in turn, express our legislative priorities identified by our local and state Leagues for this session. It is also a time to have an informal conversation about the legislative process. Issues of local interest are the Branigan Library, mental health services, especially the proposed triage center, affordable housing, and education. Although the LWVNM Action Committee has not identified its legislative priorities for the 2011 session, rollout of the health care reform law, campaign finance reform and ethics have been the focus in the past.

We hope that you will attend and take this opportunity to meet the two new members of the delegation and welcome returning members.

Happy Holidays

December 1 (Wednesday) - 1 - 2:30 p.m., **Board Meeting**, Branigan Library, Board Room.

December 2 (Thursday) - **Deadline for Reservations for Legislative Breakfast.** RSVP Sharon Burbano (526-2860 or Email: surbano@aol.com). **Reservations are required.**

December 4 (Saturday) - 10 a.m. - Noon, **LWVNM Lobbying Workshop**, Montezuma Lodge, 431 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe.

December 9 (Thursday) - 10 a.m., **Education Study Committee Meeting** with LCPS Superintendent Stan Rounds in the LCPS Administration Building.



December 11 (Saturday) - 9 - 11:30 a.m., **Breakfast with the Legislators**, Good Samaritan Society, Social Center, Main Dining Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. Breakfast is \$8. **Reservations required.**

December 14 (Tuesday) - 1 p.m., **Affordable Housing Study Committee Meeting**, Good Samaritan Small Conference Room.

Save the Date:

January 10, 2011 - 10-11 a.m., New Member Orientation, Small Conference Room, Good Samaritan
January 15, 2011 - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Las Cruces Convention Center Grand Opening.

The VOTER

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**The League of Women Voters of
Greater Las Cruces**

P.O. Box 8322
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Jane Carter, Elected Member

Director, Public Relations
Roberta Gran

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Bonnie Burn - 526-0013

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**Election Procedures and
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President's Message

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope you are celebrating with family and friends. The League this past year has much to be thankful for including members who renewed their membership and new members who showed they value our work by joining. We also greatly appreciate our members and supporters from the community who, through their financial contribution, made our voter services activities a success.



As this holiday season approaches, it may seem that my focus is entirely on money. That is largely true because we spent more than \$7,000 from our treasury this past month in payment for printing the *Voters' Guide* and per member assessments to LWVUS and LWVNM (see article, p. 3). This is an expensive time of the fiscal year for our League, and it is a time when we need to begin building our treasury for the next fiscal year. I can say with pride that our members have helped tremendously in this regard. Dues were renewed and new members added so that our membership stands at 100 again this year. Additionally we've received \$2,077 in contributions from our members and hopefully will gain another \$1,000 from members who respond to our recent solicitation letter. Our *Voters' Guide* was supported by donations from our community supporters (\$1,210), LWVNM grant program (\$678), and additional "above and beyond" contributions from members who believe the *Voters' Guide* is a valuable community resource. Although we have limited overhead, we do have operating expenses, and we have been careful to stay within budget for those. This information can be viewed as a mid-fiscal year report. A full report will be given at the Annual Meeting.

In other activities, we are looking forward to our breakfast with our state legislators and hope you can join us. We also are moving forward with the Affordable Housing and Education Study Committees.

Bonnie Burn

Board Highlights - November 3, 2010, 1 - 2:p.m., Branigan Library

- Approved a fund drive letter to members who had not yet contributed to the League during this fiscal year.
- Approved participating in a future community forum on immigration issues, and heard a report about two community committees working on legislation related to immigration: (1) Immigration/Migration Task Force led by Ambassador Delano Lewis, NMSU, and (2) Ad Hoc Immigration Committee led by Las Cruces Councilor Olga Pedroza.
- Approved having a vendor booth at the Las Cruces Convention Center Open House on January 15, 2011.
- Accepted the final report on voter services activities presented by Erika Graf-Webster.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Susan Schmugge, Director, Membership

When you pay your \$50 annual dues to the local League, that money is our largest reliable source of income. You may think we are using all of your \$50 dues for local League activities. In fact, only \$8.30 remains in our local treasury. Here is what happens.

The largest expense for a local League is the per member payment (PMP) that is made to the national League. Right now, the current rate is \$29.70 per member, \$14.85 for the second household member. In 2011-2012, the rate will increase to \$30 and \$15, respectively. We also pay \$12.00 per member and \$6 per second household member to the state League. This rate has remained constant for the last four years. As a result, these per member payments leave little money for the local league treasury.

When our local League approved its annual budget at the Annual Meeting in April this year, the budget included allocations for other obligated expenses (i.e., telephone, post office box, newsletter, reprinting publications) and for other committed activities (e.g., issue studies, meetings, conventions). All of these activities support the League's primary functions; however, \$8.30 does not cover them. We, therefore, rely on donations from our members, and individuals and businesses in the community.

This year was an election year, and most of the money needed to publish a *Voters' Guide* and sponsor candidate forums was accumulated over the past two years from donations made to our Education Fund by you and others in the community that support the voter service work the League does. As you know, contributions to the education fund are tax-deductible and may be made at any time of the year. We are grateful for the financial help we receive. We also greatly appreciate those members, individuals, and businesses that provide in-kind services or offer services at a reduced rate.

To fulfill the League's many functions, then, we rely not only on your dues but also on donations from you, our members, and the community. And that's the story of how your dues and donations flow through the League.

REMEMBER
the League of Women Voters'
Education Fund
as you consider your year-end, tax
deductible contributions.

Welcome!



New Members

Judy Baker
2130 Sugar Pine Way
Las Cruces, NM 88012
Tel: (575) 640-7942
Email: jlbake2007@comcast.net

Clifford Perry & Christa Slaton
5611 Camino Escondida
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Erika Graf-Webster
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Membership Directory Updates

*For Holiday
Arrangements*
REMEMBER



Barb's
Flowerland

Arroyo Plaza
**2001 E. Lohman
Las Cruces**

575-525-1850

www.BarbsFlowerlandInc.com

"Women Win the Vote"
Table Centerpieces

Look Back - Collaboration Results in Ethics Training for New Mexico Leaders

Bonnie Burn, Reporting

Dr. Diane Prindeville, director of the Masters of Public Administration Program, NMSU, and academic director for NM EDGE, presented information about a new program underway to ensure that elected and appointed officials and public administrators throughout the state receive ethics training. The governor and other elected state officers are not included in this program. In the recent past, NM state legislators passed a law that requires two hours of ethics training per year. House Memorial 6, sponsored by Representative Nate Cote, created ethics training for legislators.

Certified Advocate for Public Ethics (CAPE) is the name of the curriculum that was developed through a collaboration of the NMSU College of Business, the NM Ethics Alliance and a working committee that included some legislators and leaders from around the state. The program consists of three-hour courses that bring about understanding of ethical dilemmas, conflict of interest, where to go for help when ethical questions arise and more. Courses will be offered around the state at numerous times of the year to ensure that elected officials and public administrators have easy access to them. Results are measurable and include pre and post testing.

Conflict of interest, where elected officials vote on issues that will benefit them, and accepting gifts were identified as the two areas that create most ethical dilemmas. Taking appropriate corrective action, once a problem has been identified, is another concern. In the case of the City of Las Cruces, an ethics ordinance was passed and infractions can be reported to the city manager or the city attorney. Closed government meetings breed ethics issues, especially where public money is involved. Care must be taken to ensure that journalists don't "spin" printed news stories in such a way that ethical issues arise.

This program is offered through the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service. League members attending the luncheon offered to participate in pilot testing of the curriculum. We hope Dr. Prindeville will accept our offer.

Three Decades of Ethics Legislation in New Mexico - *Kathy Campbell, President, League of Women Voters of New Mexico*

New Mexico can justly claim to have made enormous progress in the areas of ethics and campaign finance reform in the past two decades. However, several areas remain unaddressed and therefore the state Legislature can be expected to continue to deal with these issues as we move into the second decade of this century.

The first Governmental Ethics Task Force was established by Governor Bruce King in 1992. Following its recommendations, the Legislature passed a new and broader Governmental Conduct Act. New campaign finance reporting requirements were enacted, and legislators were forbidden to use campaign contributions for living expenses, although they continue to use them to run their offices, prepare newsletters for their constituents, and so forth. The establishment of legislative ethics committees also dates from this time.

In 2006, Governor Richardson established a second Task Force on Ethics Reform. This Task Force recommended:

- establishment of a state ethics commission;
- enactment of whistleblower protection;
- limitations on the receipt of gifts by state officials;
- establishment of campaign contribution limits and increased campaign reporting requirements;
- provision of legislative compensation;
- establishment of appointive offices and minimum qualifications for the state treasurer and state auditor; and
- publicly financed elections.

In 2007, a new Gift Act was passed substantially along the lines recommended by the Task Force. Provisions regarding independent expenditures were added to the Campaign Reporting Act. The Voter Action Act established public financing for judicial races. In 2009 New Mexico finally ceased being one of the few states in the union with no campaign contribution limits. A Whistleblower Protection Act passed in 2010.

Most states do have state ethics commissions, although some are more effective than others.

(Continued on page 5)

Ethics Legislation *(Continued from page 4)*

Multiple bills to set up a commission have been submitted every year since 2007, including bills drafted by the Interim Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee (CCJC). Despite efforts to accommodate all objections, all have failed, and given the current budget constraints they are unlikely to succeed any time soon. Bills to extend the Voter Action Act to cover more state offices are likely to get even shorter shrift.

The emphasis seems to be shifting in the direction of more specific legislation to regulate or ban outright campaign contributions from state contractors and lobbyists. Similar legislation has been credited with changing the political culture in other states. A bill along these lines that passed the House in 2010 (HB 118) will be reintroduced in 2011, along with a bill drafted by the CCJC. Another theme of recent and upcoming sessions will be the extension of the Governmental Conduct Act to local governments, again including a CCJC draft for the 2011 session.

The Legislature prides itself on being a “citizen legislature”, that to its members apparently means merely that legislators are not compensated beyond per diem expenses. By contrast, the League of Women Voters believes that ordinary citizens, even “wage slaves”, should be able to run for the Legislature and, if elected, to afford to serve, without becoming beholden to private interests. This leads to LWVNM support for both publically financed campaigns and legislative compensation, however dim the prospects for either are in the near future.

Editor's Note: This article arose because of a question about the ethics legislation that LWVNM has followed through the years.

Health Care Reform Update

Vicki Simons, Reporting

By 2014, the federal health care reform legislation calls for states to create health insurance exchanges that will sell regulated private insurance policies to the uninsured and connect those who are eligible to public programs like Medicaid. Waivers for states that wish to take different paths to health care coverage--like the Health Security Act--will not be available until 2017. If the 2017 date is removed, states will be able to work on alternative solutions (as long as they meet the federal legislation's

criteria) immediately, so they can be up and running in time for the 2014 deadline.

The Health Security for New Mexicans Coalition continues to pursue its goal of passage of the Health Security Act in New Mexico. We continue to believe the Health Security Act would better ensure that all residents of the state receive coverage and that it would control costs more effectively. The Legislature must decide whether to pass legislation setting up the insurance exchange now or proceed more cautiously.

In a recent meeting, the Legislative Interim Committee on Health and Human Services met and officially endorsed the Health Security Act. It will be presented in the 2011 legislative session. In conjunction with the introduction of Health Security, there will be a request for an analysis of the costs of setting up an insurance exchange versus setting up the Health Security plan. While the state has already received a planning grant of \$1 million in federal funds for the exchange, it is expected that the costs for instituting all the provisions of the exchange will be much greater than that. The question is, how much will New Mexico need to spend in state funds. The committee also endorsed setting up the insurance exchange as well as a memorial requesting the NM congressional delegation to press Congress for removal of the 2017 date. The legislature as a whole will have to decide how to proceed.

The Health Security Coalition is working with groups in other states that have reform plans of their own, mainly to pressure Congress to remove the 2017 date from the federal legislation so states may proceed with their own reform plans. Vermont is working on a single payer plan at the state level. This plan is expected to pass its legislature. The newly elected governor is a single payer supporter, and the state's congressional delegation is very supportive of this effort. The question remains whether or not this plan will be allowed to proceed.

GET CAUGHT RECYCLING

November, December, or January

Get “caught” recycling at one of the recycling drop off centers. **YOU** win an instant prize and are eligible to win the grand prize — a trip for two to Las Vegas or San Diego



League News



League of Women Voters - United States:

In its *Leader Update* (November 4, 2010), President Elizabeth McNamara passed on a hug and pat on the back for a job (mid-term election) well done. "The League has served our communities and the nation in incredible ways during this entire election season. ... We are proud of each and every League! ... Thank you for your civic service!

Two priority areas of focus for the national League will be "secret money" that fueled the campaigns and incivility. The national League will be advocating for passage of the **Disclose Act** that would restore some transparency to U.S. elections by requiring disclosure of corporate and union donations to candidates. LWVUS also will be working for preservation and extension of ethics enforcement. The special interest money in this election is a further indication that Congress must not fail in enforcing ethics standards in its ranks. Incivility is more difficult to address but a "new low in American politics" was experienced in expensive advertising, candidate debates and forums and in public discourse. LWVUS reinforces the principle that

*voters, not money, should be at
the center of our democracy.*

LWVUS Education Study Committee: Delegates at Convention 2010 adopted a study of the role of the federal government in public education. The study committee members have been identified: Pat Arron (IL), Gail Glick (MA), Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins (CO), Patricia Libutti (NJ), Jean Pierce (IL) and Janelle Rivers (SC). Peggy Hill and Joanne Leavitt (CA), LWVUS Board Members, are chairing the Study. Background study materials produced by the committee will be posted on the LWVUS website (www.lwv.org) sometime in the spring 2011.

LWV of Santa Fe County: We are celebrating approval of Santa Fe County's Sustainable Growth Management Plan. "I think we should mark this as one of the great achievements of the League and evidence of the effectiveness of our transparency and natural resources positions," said President Meredith Machen.

The Plan in its various drafts has been discussed in more than 100 meetings across the county over the last two years. Over 100 people spoke at the County Commission meeting—representing viewpoints of political parties, oil and gas industry, ranchers, and developers. They packed the audience and cheered when speakers told our county commissioners not to pass the Plan. This visionary document updates the very limited and out-of-date plan of 1999, and it is one of the most progressive in the country. It may influence natural resources management in the whole state. It is on www.santafecounty.org if you want to see it. The fight will be even harder to pass the implementing code.

Santa Fe League members have testified before, written letters galore, studied drafts, and made suggestions. We were afraid that the commissioners would bow to public pressure, but they didn't. "I saw the commissioners glancing at the League's written testimony when the negative comments were pouring in, "observed President Machen, "We made a difference." The League received lots of visibility in the process. Several letters to the editor mentioned the League favorably as did the article on the subject in the *New Mexican*.

LWVGLC Precinct Hot Line - Marjorie Burr, Coordinator: The phone started to ring at 6:25 in the morning on Election Day and didn't stop until 6:55 in the evening. In all, we responded to about 125 calls during the day. Most answered question was "Where do I vote?" We were able to find almost all the people in our database.

We started off a little clunky. We were using the Excel database from the County Clerk, and trying to scroll through 9,000+(?) names was very unwieldy. So we switched to Voter View from the Secretary of State, in which we could access voter records directly using names and birth dates. We then looked in the Doña Ana County database only if we could not find the name in the Secretary of State database. This did happen a number of times so it was good we had both.

I think our precinct-locator service was very successful. Thanks to these people who staffed the phone: LaJune Smith, Christina Little, Ellen Young (two shifts), Terry and Sue Cain, Erika Graf-Webster, Judith Scott, Cathy Mathews, and Mickey Curtis.

Editor's Note: One precinct worker called the League's telephone number to compliment us on the referral card included in the Presiding Judge's bag that announced this service.

League About Town

On October 13, New Mexico First scheduled Election '10 Town Hall Debates at KRWG in Las Cruces as one of a series of three. It was a half-day event because special care had been taken to ensure that citizens had a controlling hand in selecting the questions for the two candidates for the US House of Representatives.

A diverse group of about 50 that included **Alex Burr** and **Barbara Goedecke** was selected by New Mexico First to participate in the question generation and selection procedure. The debate itself took place live in the KRWG studios with Sam Donaldson as moderator. Overall the exercise was well organized and conducted. It gave voters some real information in contrast to the large numbers of sound bites (or written notes) that have flooded the campaign process.

KRWG radio invited **Mary Tucker**, Progress Club, **Bonnie Eisenberg**, American Association of University Women, and **Bonnie Burn**, League of Women Voters, to discuss the impact of electing a woman governor for New Mexico. Interviewed by Jared Anderson, the program aired on October 26.

Women as State Governors - Bonnie Burn

In welcoming New Mexico's first woman governor, Susana Martinez, here are a few brief historical facts about women governors.

Looking through the ages, a pattern of women completing their husband's terms emerges. The earliest was Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming (1925-1927), who completed her husband's term (Governor William B. Ross 1923-1924) and was the first and only woman governor of Wyoming. Miriam Ferguson, Texas, completed her husband's term (1925-1927) when he was impeached, and she ran successfully again, serving from 1933-1935. Not until 1975-1980 did Ella T. Grasso, who was not a wife or widow of a previous governor, serve as governor of Connecticut. Lurleen Wallace, wife of Governor George Wallace could be called a "place holder" for her husband, George Wallace, who was term-limited and ran for President. She successfully won election (1967-1968) but succumbed to cancer after serving only one year. Jane Swift, Acting Governor, Massachusetts (2001-2003) gave birth to twins while in office. Arizona has had four women governors, representing both parties. Three women served consecutively: Jane Dee Hull (1997-2003), Janet Napolitano (2003-2009), Jan Brewer (2009 to the present). Twenty-seven states have never had a woman governor. That number was reduced by two when Oklahoma and New Mexico elected women, Mary Fallin, former U.S. Representative (R-OK) and Susana Martinez, District Attorney in Doña Ana County. In addition to the two newly elected governors, Beverly Perdue (D-NC) and Christine Gregoire (D-WA) are serving as governors until 2012.

Women participate in the same political model as men to win this office: competing for funding and negativity that pollutes the political environment.

JOIN THE LEAGUE TODAY - Bring a friend with you!

Membership Type

Individual \$50

1st & 2nd Household \$75

Those joining after November 1 pay half-dues.

Contribution to the League \$

Contribution to the Education Fund (tax deductible) \$

Name(s):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Mail checks made out to LWV of Greater Las Cruces, P.O. Box 8322, Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322



LEAGUE OBSERVER REPORTS

The League's Observer Corps enables greater coverage and information gathering, can provide early warning of upcoming issues of concern, can increase League's visibility, and can assist in networking with other groups. We appreciate the reports that are submitted by Observers. Following the League practice of publishing nonpartisan, objective reports, the information submitted may be edited for content and brevity.

South Central Solid Waste Authority, November 18, 2010, 9 a.m., Dona Ana County Government Building - Johnnie Aldrich Observer

Today's Board Meeting began with a 30-minute work session in which Board members and representatives of both the Las Cruces City Council and the Doña Ana County Commissioners heard and discussed a proposal from Director Patrick Peck about the improvement and development of community collection centers and solid waste transfer stations in La Union and La Mesa. The new or rebuilt centers, along with that in Anthony, would more effectively serve citizens in the southern part of the county.

Multiple location possibilities were discussed. Some of the citizens of La Union want the current station to remain in place; some of them do not. The work session ended with the Board suggesting that Director Peck should continue to develop plans for a new facility near La Mesa and attempt to negotiate with the Board of Trustees of La Union to determine whether the Authority should plan to move.

During the regular meeting, the Board heard a proposal from representatives of Keep Las Cruces Beautiful. The group's plan is to publish a 32-page full-color book that would be distributed to all 3rd-graders in the County. Focus: litter control, recycling, illegal dumping, and environmental beautification. The group asked that the Authority consider participation in the financing of the project. After several questions and comments from Board members, the Board promised to discuss the issue further and to reply to the proposal at a future date.

In his monthly activity summary, Director Peck reported on the E-Recycling Event held on November 13 (see next article).

Other business included the contract renewal for the purchase of biodiesel fuels, the purchase of a truck, and renewal of a price agreement for Public Relations Services. To date this year, the Authority is operating on budget.

The South Central Recycling Partnership, E-Recycling Event, November 13, 2010 - Al McBrayer, Reporting

The 2010 E-Recycle Event was a big success. On Saturday, November 13, volunteers and employees of South Central Solid Waste Authority gathered at the County Government Center on Motel Boulevard to collect recycled electronics. The action started at 9:00 a.m. and continued, nonstop, until just after 1:00 p.m. In all, more than 400 cars and trucks came through the drop-off zone, and 40 tons of recycled material was collected.

The festive atmosphere was enhanced by music from 101 Gold. The DJs brought the 2010 Camero the station is raffling off. Everyone wanted to check it out and fill out an entry form. My wife, Terri, and I were two of the first to enter the raffle between loads of electronics.

At the end of the event, volunteers and employees were treated to a fine feast of chicken, pizza and soft drinks provided by local businesses. Many thanks go out to everyone who helped and to those who contributed and supported our effort including the New Mexico Recycling Coalition.

The recycled electronics are transported by truck to UNICOR Federal Prison Industries located in Tucson, AZ., an organization established in 1934, by executive order, to create a voluntary real-world work program to train inmates. Processing recycled electronics is among its list of services. The components are broken down and processed in this country without polluting the environment. UNICOR has a federal contract to process recycled electronics from military and federal installations. Many computers can be refurbished and reused in schools. Hard drives are wiped clean seven times using FBI software so information never falls into the wrong hands. With UNICOR, recyclers can turn in their old computers with confidence.

The South Central Solid Waste Authority accepts recycled electronics every day at the Amador

(Continued on page 9)

transfer location. Please refer to:
TheScrappyPages.com or call: 528-3589 for more
information and current recycling news.

The E-Recycle Event was also the kick-off for the new "Get Caught Recycling" campaign. Every tenth car received a tag, good for a gift package containing a Care Improvement Plus coffee mug, a \$5 dollar gift certificate to The Bean in Mesilla or a "Recycle New Mexico" T-shirt provided by the New Mexico Recycling Coalition. Additionally, they were registered for a Grand Prize trip-for-two, provided by the *Las Cruces Sun-News*. The "Get Caught Recycling" program will be ongoing, and every week recyclers will be "caught" at the different recycle drop-off sites. New winners will receive an instant prize and a chance for a trip courtesy of the *Sun-News*. Good luck to all, and please keep recycling.

Las Cruces Public School Board Meeting, November 16, 2010, 6:30 p.m., School Board Conference Room - Pat Pedersen, Observer

All school Board members were present.

Education awards were presented to Jennifer Terrazas, principal of Conlee Elementary, and Eunice Zumack, 3rd grade teacher at Central Elementary, for excellence in education. An award for Human and Civil Rights went to Rosalinda Carreon-Altimirano. Awards were also presented to three students of the Future Farmers of America.

A short video about bullying was presented by Dr. Steven Sanchez, assistant superintendent of instruction. Commissioner Scott Krahling, Doña Ana County, presented a proclamation about bullying on behalf of the county commissioners. John Smith, during Public Comments, discussed an after-school program to reduce bullying in schools and to allow both students that are bullied and the bullies to work on their issues. Las Cruces Public Schools has issued its own proclamation about bullying.

Energy usage in each school is being researched by two full-time energy education specialists. The goal is to achieve savings, perhaps millions of dollars.

Dr. Liz Marrufo and two teachers made a presentation about new reading materials now used with K-5 students. The same program is used by all teachers for English and Spanish speaking students. A self-assessment tool is built into the program.

Superintendent Stan Rounds reported that the new high school is further delayed by construction difficulties and the opening date has been moved to 2012.

The new school procedure regarding traffic and parking was read for the first time.

Announcement: The School Board Election will be held on February 1, 2011 for Districts 4 (Dr. Bonnie Votaw) and 5 (Dr. Connie Phillips).

Vision 2040 Update - Bonnie Burn, Member, Advisory Committee

City councilors and county commissioners reached a decision during the summer that the Vision 2040 Regional Plan proposed by consultants peter j. smith & company should be revised to fit the culture and ethos of our area. Staff of the City of Las Cruces Community Development Department is taking the lead on this project, and Paul Michaud, Senior Planner, has been facilitating the work of a 46 member Advisory Committee. Since July 14, the Advisory Committee has held monthly meetings to review the eleven sections of the plan.

After an absence of several months, I was able to attend the November 16 meeting where Section 7, Regional Growth Scenario Alternatives, was discussed. Three different land use concepts have been selected for consideration:

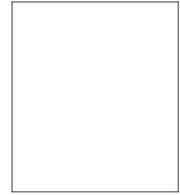
1. **Trend Growth Scenario** depicts the regional distribution of growth similar to that experienced throughout the region between the years 2000-2010. Growth continues in the Las Cruces and El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (i.e., Anthony, Chaparral, Santa Teresa, Sunland Park, the outlying Las Cruces boundary and ETZ territory).
2. **Satellite Growth Scenarios:** Growth is distributed among satellite communities (i.e., Anthony, Hatch, Mesilla and Sunland Park), where infill construction with higher density and

(Continued on page 10)



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FIRST CLASS

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Vision 2040 *(Continued from page 9)*

height is achieved in the downtown areas, commercial centers are multi-storied, and surrounding residential is relatively dense. Other communities and areas in Doña Ana county remain at densities similar to today.

- 3. Compact Growth Scenarios:** The concepts of Smart Growth and sustainability are key concepts. A larger share of regional growth is focused within central cities, urbanized areas, inner suburbs, and areas that are already served by infrastructure. The share of growth is reduced in newly urbanized land, existing farmlands, and in environmentally sensitive areas.

Using maps that were reviewed at the beginning of the meeting, discussion of population density by 2040 (projected at 125,000 additional people in the area), and discussion of the types of communities now developed in the city and county, Advisory Committee members were asked to flesh out the proposed three scenarios. As the discussion evolved it appeared that a "hybrid" among the three scenarios might be the eventual solution. Under its current position, the League continues to support growth on the East Mesa and preservation of as much of the agricultural land as possible, although realistically we understand that farmers may choose to sell their land for development.

For all information about this project, log on to the web site of the City of Las Cruces and click on the Vision 2040 tab.

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Thank You



*Happy
Holidays*