

The VOTER

League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
www.lwvglc.org
July 2010



Lunch with a Leader

Elephant Butte Irrigation District - Water, Part III

Gary Esslinger, Treasurer and Manager, Elephant Butte Irrigation District

Recently, League members listened to and answered consensus questions about League of Women Voters of New Mexico's water study. Next, a presentation about our local water supply was made by Dr. Jorge Garcia, Utilities Director, City of Las Cruces. Another entity that impacts our local water supply is the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID). Gary Esslinger will speak about EBID's approach to managing storm water and flood flows especially created during the summer monsoon season. He will present information about managing storm water for the benefit of communities and protecting property. How this water can help restore habitat along the river corridor, recharge our aquifers and be reused for irrigation purposes during monsoon events are part of his presentation. Additionally, he will provide information about the low head power generation project that is currently underway.

Gary Esslinger is a third generation member of a pioneer farming family that came to the Mesilla Valley in 1913 before the Elephant Butte Dam was built. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Northern Arizona University. In 1978, he began working for EBID and assumed the Treasurer-Manager position in 1987. Gary has kept his roots in farming as well as other agricultural based industries and lives on the family farm with his wife and three daughters. **Please join us for Water, Part III**

CALENDAR

June 23 (Wednesday) - **Board Meeting**, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m, Branigan Library Boardroom.



July 4 (Sunday) - **Independence Day**

July 5 (Monday) - **Deadline for Reservations for Lunch with a Leader.** RSVP Sharon Burbano (526-2860) It is **necessary** that **everyone make a reservation.**

July 7 (Wednesday) - **Board Meeting**, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m, Branigan Library Boardroom.



July 12 (Monday) - **League Lowdown**, 10-11:00 a.m., **Topic: Program Study Process**, Good Samaritan Village's Social Center, Small Conference Room.

July 12 (Monday) - 11:30 a.m., **Lunch General Meeting** at Good Samaritan Village's Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. **Topic: Water, Part III.** Speaker : Gary Esslinger, Treasurer-Manager, Elephant Butte Irrigation District. Lunch is \$8. **Reservations required.**

Mark Your Calendar

August 28 (Friday) - Women Win the Vote - 90th Anniversary. Celebration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote. Details to follow in **The VOTER**, August 2010 issue.

Notable Event: July 19, 1848—First Women's Convention, Seneca Falls, NY

The VOTER

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

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www.lwvglc.org

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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.

President's Message

The **HOT** days of summer are here. Although the temperatures have hit 100+, the pace of League work has not slowed down.

June opened our **once-a-year fund drive**. This year we are focusing on receiving contributions to fund publication of our *Voters' Guide* (\$4,000 plus). Letters to our current community supporters and potential new donors were mailed on June 4. Follow-up calls have been made to ensure that letters reached their destinations. Personal calls to potential new donors will be scheduled very soon. We welcome voluntary contributions from members of the community who look to us for voter services.



Women Win the Vote - 90th Anniversary: Mark your calendars for this special event. A celebration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the right to vote is being planned and is scheduled for Saturday, August 28. Please plan to attend. Thirty-five community women's groups have been identified and a committee of 17 representatives has been assembled to plan the event. More details will be forthcoming. (see ad, p. 6)

Re-Energizing America, the second conference co-sponsored by Congressman Teague and Barbara Couture, president, New Mexico State University was held on June 3-4, (See p.8)

Atlanta, Georgia hosted the 2010 **LWVUS Convention**, June 11-15. Daily email bulletins updated members who did not attend. (See p. 5).

Voter services activities related to the November 2010 General Election are also underway. (See p. 4)

The **Affordable Housing** Study Committee has held its first meeting to develop a plan for the study. (See p. 4)

Bonnie Burn

Board Highlights - May 26, 2010

- **Fund Drive** was the major agenda item. Donor lists were reviewed and updated; letter of solicitation was finalized; and process for conducting the drive was established.
- **NM Centennial Celebration** (1912-2012): LWVGLC will participate in the parade that is scheduled for January 2012.
- **LWV of New Mexico Convention** (May, 2011): LWV of Los Alamos will host this biennial event.
- **Treasury:** Mary Pearson completed a reconciliation of the League's account ledger and checkbook for the period May 1, 2009-April 7, 2010 and verified a closing checkbook balance of \$4,759.67.
- **Informal Meeting: League Lowdown** is the name of the meeting scheduled from 10-11 a.m., in Good Sam's Small Conference Room on the same day as Lunch with a Leader.

The Engaged Citizen – Marjorie Burr

Sometimes several ideas converge in a limited timeframe. They are like musical notes that together make up a chord. This happened to me recently.

First, a few of us Leaguers were discussing comprehensive planning for the city, and comments were made that the plan “just sits on the shelf,” and “the plans aren’t enforced.” I, a veteran of at least three comprehensive plans in Las Cruces, made the not very startling observation that the **value is in the process**, in the consensus of citizens, even though one must look over several decades to see the areas in which we concur.

Then, Todd Dickson of *The Las Cruces Bulletin*, interviewed three of us League members for a story about the League (*The Bulletin*, June 11, 2010). He asked why we joined the League. This elicited a response from me that it was an organization that studies and acts on a variety of issues, and this attracted me as a citizen concerned about many areas of civic life.

Finally I read a portion of Thomas Friedman’s *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution and How It Can Renew America* that seemed to tie together these previous incidents. “The unique and politically significant American contribution to social and political life is the engaged citizen. ... **The best enforcers are engaged citizens.** The only reason a social change law gets enforced, in the end, is **that citizens become engaged in making the change themselves.** The state alone can’t do it. And the common ground of all these movements trying to effect social change agendas is that they depend on **citizens actually caring**—otherwise the state passes a law, puts it on the books, and everyone goes home.” (pp. 413-414, Release 2.0 edition)

This is the chord, made up of these notes: what is important in planning is the process of engaged citizens making decisions; and engaged citizens must stay vigilant to enforce the laws that are put on the books; and LWV is the quintessential “engaged citizens.”

Leaguers About Town

In August, **Ellen Young** will assume her new appointment as commissioner to the Branigan Library Advisory Committee. She is replacing **Pat Pedersen**. The League will be able to maintain its connection to and interest in the needs of the library.

Marjorie Burr, **Kate Schultz**, and **Bonnie Burn** were interviewed by **Todd Dickson**, News Editor, *The Bulletin*. The article was a prelude to our annual community fund drive. Additionally, Todd invited the League to talk about the fund drive on his Thursday radio show on KSNM 570 AM. **Kate Schultz** and **Bonnie Burn** participated. We appreciated this opportunity to publicize the League and the fund drive.



New Members

Sue and Terry Cain
1013 Rio Vista Dr.
Las Cruces, 88007
Tel: 647-8250
Email: terryandsuecain@yahoo.com

Last Call

Membership Renewal

Final invoices are in the mail. If we do not have a membership renewal check from you by July 31, your membership will expire.

\$50 - Individual and 1st Household
\$25 - Additional Household Member

Make Checks Payable to:
LWV of Greater Las Cruces

Mail to:
League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
P.O. Box 8322
Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322

Donations in addition to dues are appreciated.

November 2, General Election
The League will be publishing a
Voters' Guide and *Who's Who*.

To make a tax deductible donation
make your check payable to:
LWV Education Fund.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

Joseph P. Camunez, DDS
Lilley Law Offices
Edward Jones, Connie Lee
Tom Tate
Zia Engineering & Environmental
Consultants

Thank You



League News



Affordable Housing Committee

Vicki Simons and Christina Little, Co-Chairs

The League of Women Voters Affordable Housing Study Committee is forming. **All League members are invited to participate.** Our first meeting will be on Thursday, August 5, 1 pm at the United Way of Southwest New Mexico, 110 S. Water.

There are many good reasons to join the committee. For new members, it will give you some first-hand experience in how the League operates. For people who have just moved to town, it will give you a chance to find a lot about how things work in this community. For everyone, it will give you the opportunity to examine the need for affordable housing, to explore possible solutions, and to meet many interesting people.

We are committed to a process that includes interviews with a variety of local experts in housing issues.

Think about joining. We promise some fun as well as a serious consideration of affordable housing. If you have questions, please contact either Vicki (522-4813, vrsimons@comcast.net) or Chris (373-1882, cslittle@zianet.com).

Voter Services

Erika Graf-Webster, Director

Voter Services activities have started with a detailed plan, and some early efforts are ongoing. Six voter registration sessions have been planned, at venues such as the Mall and the Farmers Market.

At a meeting with the David McCollum, publisher of *The Bulletin*, the League received a written commitment from *The Bulletin* to publish the *Voters' Guide* for approximately the same price as the 2008 issue. However, they will be printing 1,500 extra copies that will be made available to the League. And, *The Bulletin* has also generously offered to again publish the *Who's Who* at no cost to the League.

The session for the development of candidate questions that will be featured in the *Voters' Guide* has been scheduled. A small committee has been formed by Dale Yeo, lead for the *Voters' Guide* activity, for formulation of the questions and for later proofreading of the *Guide*. The candidates who will be featured in the *Guide* have been identified along with their contact information with the exception of the independent candidates who have until June 22 to declare their candidacy.

The Voter Services Committee, in coordination with Bonnie Burn, had previously identified date options for candidate forums. Nancy Phillips, coordinator for the candidate forums, has firmed up the dates for two of the three forums (September 22 and October 6) and has reserved the Munson Center for those dates. These two forums will cover state-wide offices and local candidates. The third forum, for the U.S. House of Representative candidates, will be held on a date based on their availability. They have been sent an invitation letter, and we are waiting to hear from them.

The Legislative Breakfast has been set by the Board for December 11. The large dining room at Good Samaritan's has been reserved for the occasion.

If you can volunteer to help with any of the activities, especially voter registration and candidates forums, please contact me at 521-0600 or

FOR VOTER REGISTRARS

To volunteer during Fall 2010.

Takes a few minutes to become a registrar at
Bureau of Elections
Doña Ana County Government Building
845 Motel Boulevard
647-7428

Call Tom Schmugge 522-4546
to let him know you want to help!

**A History of Change
A Future of Hope**

90 Years of Making Democracy Work

League of Women Voters of the United States

Convention 2010 - Atlanta, Georgia - June 11-15

Over 600 delegates gathered in Atlanta for the biennial national convention. Mary Wilson, who is from New Mexico, presided over the convention as the outgoing president. For the past four years, League members from New Mexico have been proud to have her serve and represent us.

Complete convention business is available on www.lwv.org. The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) continues to advance its communication capabilities through Face Book, You Tube and Twitter. During the convention updates were available on all three media. Also, on a daily basis, bulletins were sent to members via email. Below are the highlights gleaned from those bulletins.

Adopted Program for the 2010-2012 biennium:

- Recommended study of the Federal Role in Public Education.
- Not recommended item on Privatization: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector. Sponsored by LWV of Seattle, WA, it was approved on a card vote 308-Yes, 274-No, and 3—Invalid.
- Adopted with LWV of Maryland and Maine, the concurrence position on Marriage Equality to be added to the current LWVUS position on Equality of Opportunity. "The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."
- Adopted concurrence that the following words be added to the third sentence of the LWVUS position on selection of the president: "We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve

the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.

- Adopted Florida's resolution to support lifting travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba.
- Adopted a resolution in support of safe drilling and mining for energy resources .
- Adopted a resolution calling upon the U.S. Senate to change its rules to limit the use of the filibuster.
- Adopted a resolution that "we, the representatives of local and state Leagues ... call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all.

The per member payment (PMP), the way Leagues satisfy the requirement to support the national level of our three-level organization, was increased to \$29.70 (2010-2011) and \$30 (2011-2012) for each individual member and one-half that amount for each second household member.

Election of Officers (2010-2011):

Elisabeth MacNamara (GA), president
Judy Duffy (MN), 1st vice president
Judy Davis (FL), 2nd vice president
Susan M. Wilson (CA), secretary/treasurer

Eight Directors and three members of the nominating committee were elected.

The adopted budget for 2010-2011 is \$3.9 million and for 2011-2012 is \$3.8 million.

Nine new local Leagues were welcomed. The closest one to us is Pahrump Valley, Nevada.

Four new program awards were made for innovative programs for recruiting members strengthening democracy through reform, online engagement projects, and connection with the community.

Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, was the keynote speaker.

The El Paseo [Road] Corridor Project – Bonnie Burn, Reporting

Recently, an announcement was made in the local newspapers about a pilot project planned for El Paseo Road in Las Cruces, the connecting street between downtown Main Street and University Avenue. You and I have traveled this street numerous times and experienced frustrations with left turns at the intersection of Idaho or along the street as we've tried to access various businesses.

Las Cruces was among four cities selected to receive a technical assistance grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of the 2009-2010 Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program. The city also is receiving technical assistance from two other federal agencies, Urban Development (HUD) and Department of Transportation (DOT), who together with the EPA form the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. The goal of this collaboration is to implement regional planning that incorporates smart growth principles that lead to sustainable communities. That's a lot of jargon to say smart growth invests time, attention, and resources in restoring community and vitality to center cities and older suburbs. Sustainability has many definitions. The definition adopted by the League of Women Voters of New Mexico in its sustainability position (2007) is meeting the needs of the current generation without impairing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In April 2009, Las Cruces submitted a program proposal to develop the El Paseo corridor as a pilot program that incorporates smart growth principles and emphasizes reinvestment in the existing community. Many of the tools used to develop this project are intended to be replicated when the Vision 2040 regional plan is implemented and also will be used in other cities.

El Paseo is a commercial corridor that is economically depressed and is surrounded by mostly low-income neighborhoods. It connects two important areas of the city--Main Street, including the downtown development project, and New Mexico State University. The people in the El Paseo neighborhoods have access to some shopping, restaurants, and bus service. There are a large number of empty commercial buildings. The pilot program seeks to develop a vision for the area that will stimulate reinvestment without

changing the local socio-economic nature of the area. The goal is not to have gentrification occur, a situation wherein the local residents are replaced by wealthier people who cause property values to rise and encourage new business ventures that cater to the affluent located in the area while decreasing access by the less wealthy.

The community development plan for this area will be established by the residents, businesses, churches, high school, university, the Mesquite neighborhood, and users of this connecting road. A vision for the project will set the groundwork. Events such as walking tours, collection and sharing of photos and stories, coffee with the planners, and review of road safety improvements are some of the activities planned. A Green Infrastructure Conference will be held on August 26. By understanding green infrastructure, communities are made more livable and walkable and achieve points for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. From September 30-October 2, a road safety audit of El Paseo will be conducted. A visioning workshop is planned for November 18-20. More details will be forthcoming.

Susan Lowell, Planner, City of Las Cruces Community Development Office, is leading this effort. She may be reached at 528-3079 or email: slowell@las-cruces.org for further details.



CALENDAR DATE
August 28, 2010

WOMEN WIN THE VOTE!

Save the date and plan to attend this milestone event that marks the **90th Anniversary** of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the right to vote.

If you want to volunteer to help or know of women's groups that you think might not have been included, please contact

League of Women Voters - 524-VOTE (8683)

State Implementation of Health Care Reform

Vicki Simons, chair, Health Care, League of Women Voters of New Mexico

Following the Congressional passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which is the law of the land, the states have clear mandates and timelines to meet in order to implement the federal legislation. Some of the major tasks to be accomplished with their dates are:

2010 – Establishment of **national high risk pool**.

States with existing pools will receive additional funding and use that existing pool. States have the option of expanding Medicaid eligibility to 133% of FPL (federal poverty level). States will establish a process for annual review of unreasonable premium increases, develop an independent office in each state to assist consumers, and develop a web portal through which individuals and businesses may receive information about their coverage choices. Other changes to occur in 2010 are the insurance market reforms such as limits on rescissions (dropping insurance coverage for any reason the insurance company can find), no co-pays for preventive services, restrictions on annual limits, no pre-existing conditions on children's insurance, and dependent coverage for children under age 26. There are many other details to be worked out at the state level during the years up to 2014.

The major project to be developed will be the mandated state insurance exchanges to be completed by 2014 when insurance coverage will become mandatory. This entity is complicated and involves development of other ancillary services. Monies for some of this development will come from federal grants, but states will surely incur significant costs.

To deal with implementation, State Senator Dede Feldman sponsored a memorial in the 2010 New Mexico legislative session that directs the convening of a health care reform working group to "make recommendations to the governor and the legislature regarding implementation and supplementation of federal and state health care reform measures." This working group includes the Superintendent of Insurance of the Public Regulatory Commission, members of the Department of Health, the Human Services Department, the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee, the leadership of the New Mexico Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, the New Mexico insurance pool (high risk) and the New Mexico Health Insurance Alliance. The New Mexico House and Senate appointed eight members

each. This working group has met monthly since March and will continue to meet until September.

Meanwhile, the governor has convened the New Mexico Health Care Reform Leadership Team. He has designated Human Services Department Secretary Katie Falls, chair, and the team includes the Secretaries of Health, Workforce Solutions, Taxation and Revenue, Information Technology, Children, Youth and Families, Aging and Long Term Services, Indian Affairs, the Superintendent of Insurance, Public Regulatory Commission, Division of Insurance, the Behavioral Health Collaborative CEO and a representative from the Governor's Office. One legislator has been invited.

According to observer reports, the legislative working group has been poorly attended by legislators. There is also some friction between the two groups and they appear not to be working together.

We will continue to follow developments from these two groups.

New Mexico Task Force Government Restructuring

Observer, Jody Larson, Legislative Action, LWVSFC

Second meeting was held on May 24-25. Members were educated about the process the Task Force will follow. The focus for the remainder of the meeting was education about state government structure, revenue, and generating new ideas for restructuring. Members prioritized core essential services provided, and the top three were education focused on students, health care, and public safety/security. Next an overview of government organization was presented. The original cabinet of 12 has grown to 23. A comparison of number of government employees per thousand relative to a cohort of states indicated that NM is above average for state government full-time equivalent (FTE) employees relative to the cohort and national averages. Other demographics were given and will be available on the web site after May 25. Further education about "Governing for Results," a performance-based budgeting system used by the state for 11 years was

(Continued on page 10)

“We Need It All” – *Bonnie Burn and Kate Schultz, Reporting*

The second Re-Energize America conference: Short-Term Plan for Long-Term Energy Independence, was hosted by Honorary Chair, Congressman Harry Teague, and Barbara Couture, president, New Mexico State University (NMSU) on June 3-4, 2010, at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum.

As the title implies, presentations were given about all current components of the energy industry which include oil, natural gas, coal, wind, solar, biofuels, nuclear, and hydroelectric. It was generally agreed that fossil fuels will remain a mainstay of the energy mix. But, as the speakers concluded, “We need it all.”

The United States has only 4% of remaining oil supplies on the planet. That’s 1000 days at our current use of 20 million barrels of oil per day. Since most of our oil comes from other countries, many of which are hostile to us, our economy and safety are at great risk. The pace for achieving energy security has to be increased. The Federal government has been enacting renewable energy legislation since 2005. Current climate change issues and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill are reinforcing the need for new fuels. The U.S. seems to be experiencing a convergence of environmental issues, of governmental policy legislation, and of national interest in energy. Policy, technology issues, investment money, decreasing CO₂ emissions, and creating jobs were major issues presented by individual speakers and panelists.

It was evident from the presentations that progress is being made. In the field of biomass, a transition is beginning to occur. Through loans from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), farmers are learning that they may use their land not only to produce food crops but also to engage in planting corn or camelina for biomass fuels and to install wind and solar equipment on some of their fields. The military is moving toward blending fuels so that there is a mix of jet and renewable fuel for their vehicles. It was pointed out, however, that the U.S. lags behind countries like Germany, Spain, and China: U.S. is #11 in the world for investment in renewable energy. Figures from 2007, show job creation for the U.S. (89,000), Spain (179,000), Germany (278,000), and China (1,120,000). China is now the #1 producer of

renewable energy equipment and an educated work force to build and maintain it.

New Mexico is positioned to be a major player in the renewable energy field. Sapphire Fuels reported on its progress with algae biofuels in its operations in Las Cruces and newly acquired manufacturing site in Columbus, NM. Sapphire and Joule Unlimited, Inc., are using lands that cannot be used for agriculture because of their high salt content. New Mexico has many suitable acres. A big advantage of algal diesel fuel is that no new infrastructure needs to be built to use it. It goes directly to the same refineries now using oil from wells. The New Mexico Economic Development Department, U.S. Department of Interior, and New Mexico State Land Office presented other renewal energy opportunities through land use and water use for producing hydroelectricity.

Conservation of energy achieved by weatherizing homes, buying efficient home appliances, reducing use of lighting (22% of US energy use), installing new lighting technology, and using energy efficient vehicles generates an immediate, local impact on secure energy independence. Although there are costs up front, savings accrue over time. More importantly, the lives of these resources are extended into the future, and jobs that don’t require an advanced education degree are created. Another aspect of conservation is to determine profit for utility companies, not by the volume they sell, but by how many consumers they serve. This creates incentive to serve more efficiently.

New Mexico benefited from the stimulus money available from the federal government. Congressman Teague received much praise for his efforts in Congress on behalf of the energy industry. There is, however, still much to be done. Creating a manufacturing base of renewable equipment in the U.S. is a priority among the challenging issues of changing public perception, incentivizing industry to take risks with new technology, and stabilizing public policy that allows the industry to grow.

All conference presentations will be available on the NMSU, Institute for Energy and Environment, web site. Ten League members attended the sessions. The League recognizes Professor Abbas Ghassemi, director, Institute for Energy and Environment, NMSU, and his staff for organizing a successful conference.

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.

The South Central Recycling Partnership, July 16, 2009 - Allen McBrayer, Observer

Glass is in the news these days.

The Target store on Lohman is now accepting glass and other recyclables. I think that they were a little surprised by the overwhelming response. Many local citizens have been waiting for just this kind of opportunity to dispose of their glass. We certainly support the recycling efforts of the Target stores and wish them every success. The recycling center is inside the store in the customer service area.

Additionally, the City of El Paso is considering a small business loan to a startup company wishing to build a glass crushing plant. The company claims to have a ready market, through a cement company, for their crushed glass. Nothing is settled yet, but the possibilities are very interesting and hopeful for recycled glass.

Glass is very heavy and comes in many different colors and compositions, making sorting and shipping an involved process. A crushed glass product can be used in road construction and cement as well as a substitute for dirt or sand to cover the landfill. Crushed glass can also be used in sandblasting for graffiti removal. Having a local glass crusher would be a great benefit and open the way for future recycling.

The new County Dumping Fee also has been in the news. Many county residents have been using the county dump sites for free for years and some do not like the new fee. The threat of illegal dumping has come to the attention of Codes Enforcement, while the County searches for other more positive ways to encourage proper disposal. The cost of hauling and disposal of trash and recycling from remote county sites has grown out of control in these hard economic times. The new fee is an effort to offset those costs and is in line with fees within the City. No one has extra cash these days, but a reasonable fee for service is understandable.

Curbside recycling update: The bids are in and

negotiations are ongoing at this time. We expect an end-of-year approval. The contract will be for biweekly service to 28,000 to 29,000 homes. The program will be voluntary and include an ad campaign. It will be single stream and for city residents only. (Apartments are considered commercial like a business and can request a recycle container from the city for \$30/month.)

Residential curbside recycling will impact the current recycling system greatly, and an adjustment period will be required once the curbside collection begins. The current drop-off containers will probably be moved out to the county collection points, and the transfer locations will need adjustment as well. There are no plans to change the green drop-off location. After the adjustment period, there are plans for expansion of the recycle collection, but the system must grow in steps to keep it manageable.

We live in exciting times, and we have a lot to look forward to. The hard work of Patrick Peck and the South Central Solid Waste Authority, is about to be realized for the many residents of Las Cruces who have been waiting for curbside recycling to come to our city.

**RECYCLE
GLASS**



**TARGET STORE
2541 E. Lohman
(Albertson/Office Max
Shopping Plaza)**

**Bins inside near
Customer Service**



League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces
 P.O. Box 8322
 Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322

(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
 Web: www.lwvglc.org



FIRST CLASS

EXTRA

**LAST CALL
 RENEW
 MEMBERSHIP**

NM Government Restructuring Task Force

(Continued from page 7)

presented. The state's revenue structure was next. Energy-related revenues is quite volatile, but corporate income tax from the oil and gas industry is the most volatile. The percentage of household tax burden also was reviewed, and business taxes came in about average for nine western states. Some "big ideas" for restructuring included: revamping the approach to statewide capital outlay projects, the state's contracting process, state agency consolidation, and eliminating unneeded boards and commissions.

In-depth discussions were held on "big ideas" presented the previous day. Merging departments and agencies, reviewing contracting processes, looking at boards and commissions and schools/higher education institutions and creating criteria to use in the process for reaching decisions were the focus.

Next Meeting: June 21-22.

July 2010
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JOIN THE LEAGUE TODAY - Bring a friend with you!

Membership Type

Individual ___ \$50
 1st & 2nd Household ___ \$75

—> **Members joining on November 1 pay \$25.**

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

