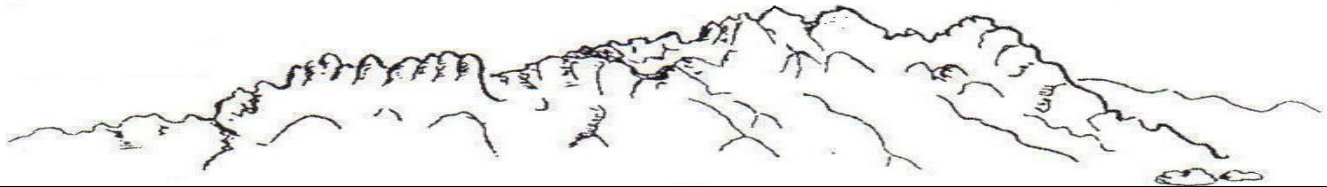


# The VOTER

League of Women Voters  
of Greater Las Cruces  
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)  
Web Site: [www.lwvglc.org](http://www.lwvglc.org)  
October 2010

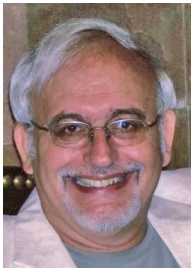


## *Lunch With a Leader - October 11 2010*

Good Samaritan Society, Creative Arts Room,  
3011 Buena Vida Circle

### Can the UN Promote Peace and Security in the 21st Century?

*Yosef Lapid, Ph.D. Regional Professor  
Department of Government, New Mexico State University*



October is designated United Nations (UN) month, and this year on October 24, the UN will be celebrating its 65th birthday. Since the UN was created, the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) has been recognized as a UN non-governmental organization, and it encourages local Leagues to acknowledge this global organization in some way.

Professor Josef Lapid has been invited to speak to us about the UN's increasing role as peace keeper throughout the world. Putting an end to warfare was the main motivating factor for the creation of the United Nations in 1945 as it had been for the League of Nations in 1919 and the Concert of Europe in 1815. Professor Lapid will address the question that appears in the title of this article. The UN remains the only truly global security institution, but can it work given the changing nature of contemporary violence and war? Professor Lapid will argue that the UN can gain new relevance in helping member states face new security threats and challenges in the 21st century. The legitimacy of armed humanitarian intervention, the program of "rogue" states seeking nuclear weapons, the role of the UN in combating terrorism and other issues will be discussed.

Yosef Lapid holds a Ph.D. and M. Phil. from Columbia University and an M.A. from Hebrew University. He is a Regents Professor in the Department of Government at NMSU. Prior to coming to NMSU in Fall, 1990, he taught at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and at Carleton in Ottawa, Canada. His research interests include the philosophy of social science; theories of international relations, identify, borders, and security; the Middle East and more.



## Voter information

### Early Voting Starts

October 5, 2010  
County Government Bldg.  
845 Motel Blvd.

### Alternate Early Voting Sites:

October 16, 2010  
(see p. 5, for site information)  
Bureau of Elections  
Tel: 647-7428

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### Voters' Guide

Available in **The Bulletin**  
October 15 issue

Available online  
[www.lwvglc.org](http://www.lwvglc.org)

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### Candidates' Forum

**Doña Ana County**  
(Commissioners, Assessor,  
Sheriff and Magistrate Judges)

October 20, 2010  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Munson Senior Center  
975 S. Mesquite St., Las Cruces

**The VOTER**

Volume 41, Issue 6 - October 2010  
Published Monthly

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

P.O. Box 8322  
Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322  
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)  
Web Site: www.lwvglc.org

**President**—Bonnie Burn

**Vice President & Program**  
Sharon Burbano

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**Treasurer** - Barbara Goedecke

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**Nominating Committee**  
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**Director, Public Relations**  
Roberta Gran

**STUDY GROUPS**

**Affordable Housing**  
Vicki Simons - 522-4813  
Christina Little - 373-1882

**Education**  
Bonnie Burn - 526-0013

**Mental Illness Services  
in Doña Ana County**  
Becky Beckett - 522-8171  
Mickey Curtis - 532-5655

**Election Procedures and  
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Marnie Leverett—522-0347

**Metropolitan Court**  
Marjorie Burr - 522-2528

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**Newsletter Editor**  
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burnb@comcast.net

**President's Message**

At this time of year, when candidates are campaigning for elected office and the League is involved with voter services activities, it is appropriate that we remember the League's nonpartisan policy and our commitment to it.



All of our members are encouraged to register in the party of their choice. And, they can be involved in political campaigning. Certain members of the Board, the President, the Voter Services Director, the chair of the candidates forums, the chair of voter registration and the editor of the *Voters' Guide*, may not take an active, visible role in a campaign for a political candidate.

The League is pleased that some of our members are involved with Internet contact groups and through e-blasts can spread the word about League voter services activities to a wider network of people. There is a caution, however. The e-blasts should not be attached to any campaign information about any candidate seeking election to office.

With these thoughts, I refer you to p. 3 where a complete copy of the nonpartisan policy is published.

In other news, **League Lowdown** will focus on the LWVUS position on the United Nations. Marjorie Burr will lead the discussion, and handouts will be available. LWVUS publishes a booklet, *Impact on Issues*, that contains all of the positions the League has adopted since it was established in 1920. These are grouped into categories, and a brief history, as well as the wording of the current positions, is given.

Between now and November 2, the League has lots of **voter services activities** planned. See ads on p. 1 and the Report from Voter Services Director, Erika Graf-Webster on p. 5. We hope that the voter information provided by us and LWV of New Mexico has been helpful to you.

*Bonnie Burn*

**Board Highlights** - September 1, 2010, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Branigan Library

- With regret, the Board accepted the resignation of Dolores Archuleta, Director, Special Projects, from the League. She was commended for her work with the Celebration of Women Win the Vote project.
- To fund the League's *Voters Guide*, \$2,900 was withdrawn from the Education Fund and a grant of \$678 was awarded to LWVGLC by

*(Continued on page 4)*

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.

## NONPARTISAN POLICY

(Adopted April 17, 2010)

The League of Women Voters, 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. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate; it is political in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues which is done only after members study and reach agreement.

The League recognizes the role of political parties in our form of government and believes that participation in the activities of political parties is an essential ingredient of citizen responsibility. While the League urges its members to be politically active, certain constraints are necessary in order to maintain the nonpartisanship of the organization. The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters has established the following guidelines:

### Board of Directors

The Board has the responsibility of maintaining the fact of the nonpartisanship of the organization.

All members, including Board members, may engage in the following activities: signing nominating petitions, serving as election officials, serving as clerical volunteers for candidates for office. All other political activities in which a Board member may wish to engage should be subject first to his/her own scrutiny, and, in case of questions, should be discussed with the Board.

The President, the Voter Services Director, the chair of candidates forums, the chair of voter registration and the editor of the *Voters' Guide* may not take an active, visible role in a campaign for a political candidate. In consistently campaigning for or against non-League issues, Board members must identify their interest as personal and not League-sponsored.

Any Board member who plans to run for elected office should *pro forma* submit his/her resignation to the Board. The Board should consider the visibility of the Board position in deciding whether or not to accept the resignation. Any candidate for elective office who continues his/her Board membership must not use his/her Board position in campaign appearances or literature. Candidates for public office should not participate in the planning of League Voter Services activities.

### League Positions

Once League (local, state, or national) takes a position on an issue, members may not identify themselves as League members in publicly expressing an opinion that is in opposition to a League position.

(Continued on page 4)

Welcome 

### New Members

Karen Nichols  
1570 Igou Road  
Anthony, NM 88021  
Cell: (915) 203-2057  
Email: Karen@UnderOurRock.com

### 2010-2011 Membership Directory Corrections.

#### Email Change:

Robert & Helen Buggert  
robertbuggert@q.com

LaJune Smith  
lajunensmith9@yahoo.com

#### Please add to the Directory

Carol Rehder  
2157 Pioneer Avenue  
Las Cruces, NM 88011  
Tel: 522-4546

(We apologize for this omission.)

#### 2010-2011 Membership Directories

are now available. If you haven't received one or if you notice corrections, please contact Susan Schmutge - 522-4546  
Email: sschmutge@aol.com

*Barb's*  
**Flowerland**



*We can do it all!*

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

**575-525-1850**

**www.BarbsFlowerlandInc.com**

"Women Win the Voter"  
Table Centerpieces

## Nonpartisan Policy *(Continued from page 3)*

### Representing League

Members representing the League in the community should be sensitive to their responsibilities. When acting in public as League representatives, members must not allow partisanship to be discernable. These members should be fully aware of League positions. It is the obligation of the Board to make the representative aware of relevant League positions.

### Serving on Commissions

Members may serve on governmental commissions at their own discretion. If the appointment is League-related, the appointee should be fully aware of the League positions as they relate to the commission's responsibilities.

### Member Candidacies

There should be no special notice in the VOTER of the candidacies of active League members.

### League Meetings

Members in leadership roles at unit and other public meetings have the responsibility to ensure the nonpartisanship of the meeting and its environment.

Only Board of Directors-approved petitions may be circulated at League meetings.

### League Roster

The League's roster is not to be made available for non-League use without Board consent.

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## Board Highlights *(Continued from page 2)*

LWV of New Mexico. (Thank you to our members, community supporters and the state League for making publication possible through generous contributions.)

- Topics were identified for the remainder of the League year:
  - November 8 - Ethics
  - December 11 - Legislative Breakfast
  - January 10 - Immigration
  - February 14 - Program Planning
  - March 14 - Women's History
  - April 16 - Annual Meeting

## Look Back – 2010 Election Update

*Sharon Burbano, Reporting*

What an appropriate time to have as our guest speaker, Lynn Ellins, Doña Ana County Clerk, who brought us a 2010 election update. Trey LaFleur, Supervisor Bureau of Elections, was an additional source of information at the luncheon on September 13.

Ellins began his presentation by addressing his concerns about some news articles describing fraud issues in his office. He has written responses to those articles disputing the validity of the charges. While he didn't deny that there may be some problems, he feels strongly that issues have been raised that are not factual, and many of them have never even been brought to his attention prior to the publications. He emphasized that whenever there is a problem, it should be brought to the attention of his office. That way solutions can be found to solve the problem.

Ellins then went on to talk about the proposal for election day vote centers for future elections. An election day vote center is a location serving as a polling place at which any registered voter may vote regardless of the precinct in which the voter is registered. Each election day vote center will have immediate access to voter information for all of Dona Ana County recorded in computers at the centers.

Following the presentation by Ellins, there was much discussion about third party registration and voter identification. One interesting point--there are absolutely NO requirements in order to qualify to register voters. Concerns about identification were made, and Lynn emphasized that misrepresentation by a voter is a felony and that should be a deterrent to fraud. Both Ellins and LaFleur then answered other questions and concerns on a one-to-one basis.

No one will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

## Voter Services Update

*Erika Graf-Webster, Director*

Voter Services activities have swung into high gear.

**Voter Registration:** Tom Schmutge arranged for and completed four registration sessions as of September 18. Two were held at the Farmers' Market and the other two at Toucan Market. At least two more sessions are planned, one at Conlee Elementary School, and another at Mayfield High School.

**Voters' Guide:** Editor Dale Yeo has been steadily working on this publication. LWVNM has provided copy for some of the state offices (e.g., Governor, Secretary of State, etc.) and the amendments and bond issues. In fact, if you want to review this information now, you may do so by logging on to [www.lwvnm.org](http://www.lwvnm.org) and clicking on the *Voters' Guide* section at the top of the menu. Questions have been sent to candidates and responses are coming in. The list of candidates and all their contact information have been updated and will serve not only for the *Guide*, but also for tracking and contacting candidates about candidates' forums. As in past years, we've had outside requests for additional copies and arrangements for additional copies have been made.

**Candidates' Forums:** Nancy Phillips has arranged for two: September 22 focused on State Representatives and State Offices (i.e., Commissioners for Public Regulation, Public Lands, and Education and the District Judges); and October 20 will focus on local County elections (i.e., County Commissioners, Assessor, and Sheriff and Magistrate Judges). The forums are being held at Munson Center (see ad, p. 1).

To date, our invitations to the candidates for the gubernatorial and congressional races have not been accepted. Via broadcast email, we are keeping members informed of debates between the congressional candidates as they are scheduled throughout the state.

The League also has been approached to hold candidates' forums in the South Valley. Information was provided but scheduling has not occurred.

## EARLY VOTING INFORMATION

### Doña Ana County Building

845 N. Motel Blvd.

**October 5-29:** weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
On Saturday, October 30, preceding the election, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**October 11 - Columbus Day  
No Voting**

### ALTERNATE Early Voting Locations Begins October 16

Tuesday thru Friday: 11:00 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Saturdays - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Closed Sundays and Mondays

Hatch Community Center  
837 Highway 187  
Hatch, NM 87937

Sonoma Elementary School  
4201 Northrise  
Las Cruces, NM 88011

Branigan Memorial Library 2nd Floor  
200 E. Picacho  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Anthony Water and Sanitation District  
1155 North Fourth St.  
Anthony, NM 88021

Chaparral Wright Park  
150 W. Lisa Dr.  
Chaparral, NM 88081

Gadsden Independent School District  
Administration Building  
4950 McNutt Rd  
Sunland Park, NM 88063

## EARLY VOTING ENDS OCTOBER 30

A lot is going on in Voter Services, and the committee is very grateful to all League members who have stepped up to help.

*Note: Please see ad on p. 1, and Early Voting Information above.)*



## League Lowdown: LWVNM [Legislative] Action Committee

*Vicki Simons and Marjorie Burr Reporting*

Vicki Simons led the discussion on September 13 of seven League members interested in learning how the LWVNM State Action Committee works. LWVGLC participates in the LWVNM State Action Committee via a weekly conference call while the legislature is in session. Interested people convene at a Las Cruces location with a speaker phone, and the meeting is conducted with members from the four state Leagues and the LWVNM state board co-chairs Dick Mason and Barbara Calef. All members are welcome at these discussions, where they can follow the action in Santa Fe without the long drive. The purpose of this committee is to choose which issues LWVNM will lobby for during the legislative session. All issues on which the LWVNM chooses to lobby are based on existing League positions. Following the decision of the issues, League members will be asked to participate by calling their legislative representatives.

State League members participating in the conference calls have a variety of expertise that ensures knowledgeable responses to many issues. As an example, from her long-term work with healthcare reform, Vicki discussed the state legislative action needed to implement the federal Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010 in New Mexico. The first required action is for New Mexico to set up a health insurance exchange, an information system, which may or may not happen in the 2011 session. The federal act also allows, but not until 2017, for a state to enact its own health care reform act. The Health Security Act has been discussed for many years in the state, and has much support, including endorsement by LWVNM. With a new governor, there is a possibility of enacting this legislation.

Methods for redistricting the state legislature may also be considered by the upcoming session of the legislature, although official census results will not be available until April 2011. LWVNM has a recently adopted position on fair representation, and thus can speak to the issue with our members' consensus.

LWVNM also has positions on campaign reform and ethics, juvenile justice, water, public school finance, and economic development, among

others, under which we can attempt to influence state legislation. For a complete list and discussion of state positions, visit [www.lwvnm.org](http://www.lwvnm.org).

League Day at the Legislature will be on February 1, 2011, where League members from around the state gather in the state capitol for a program of speakers and the opportunity to lobby our own legislators in person.

Contact Vicki Simons if you would like to be involved in the Action Committee, a very important and exciting part of League membership: [vrsimons@comcast.net](mailto:vrsimons@comcast.net), 522-4813.

## Mental Illness Services in Dona Ana County - Becky Beckett and Mickey Curtis, Co-Chairs

Constitutional Amendment 3 will be on the November 2 general election ballot.

Here is an article by Catherine Harding, Border Area Mental Health Services in Silver City.

*"I am now the most miserable man living. If what I feel were equally distributed to the whole human family, there would not be one cheerful face on earth. To remain as I am is impossible. I must either die or be better, it appears to me."*  
Abraham Lincoln

If Abraham Lincoln was living in New Mexico today he could be prevented from voting because of his mental illness. Article 7 of the New Mexico State Constitution, which was ratified in 1912, denies "idiots and insane persons" the right to vote. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century this may have been common language, but in 2010 it is both offensive and in violation of federal law.

In the 2010 Legislative Session, a resolution was passed to amend the Constitution and remove this language. It will require a 75% majority in the general election [in each county] to become law. It will appear on the ballot as Constitutional Amendment 3.

More than one in four individuals will suffer mental health issues in their lifetime. They are our neighbors, our friends, and our family members. Persons with mental illness and developmental disabilities are valued, contributing citizens. They enrich our lives and our communities. Please join in the effort to secure this basic civil right.

## 10-10-10 Celebration - *Bonnie Burn, Reporting*

There is a Global Work Party—"A Day to Celebrate Climate Solutions"—planned for October 10, 2010. Bill McKibben and his team at **350.org** is behind the effort. The 350.org identifier was adopted because scientists say that 350 parts per million (ppm) CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is the safe limit for humanity. Currently the reading stands at 392 ppm and is rising.

LWVUS is encouraging all Leagues to participate in this celebration that draws attention to climate change, shows the impact that people can have right now, and sends a strong message to decision makers at all levels that now is the time for action. To learn what immediate steps you can take, log on to: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org); on main menu click the Toolkit for Climate Change tab.

Under the direction of LWVNM Natural Resources Director Lora Lucero, local Leagues members in New Mexico are asked to write a personal letter to each of our gubernatorial candidates expressing why it is important for New Mexico to be a leader in establishing a carbon cap and asking for their support for the two petitions currently being considered by the Environmental Improvement Board (EIB). LWVNM is co-petitioner of one and is asking the EIB to set a cap to reduce global warming pollution and require sources that produce more than 25,000 metric tons of carbon annually to reduce 3% per year for three years starting in 2012. It further calls for a reevaluation after three years, with the ultimate goal of reducing emissions 25% below 1990 levels by 2020.

Letters should be addressed as:  
Letter To: Diane Denish and a second Letter to Susana Martinez and should be sent as email attachments to Lora Lucero, email: [loralucero@aol.com](mailto:loralucero@aol.com). Remember these are personal letters from you and you are not speaking for the League.

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## Environment Department Holds Poster Session – *Tom Schmutge, Reporting*

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) held a poster session concerning its proposal for a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Program & Reporting Rules at the Thomas Branigan Memorial

Library on August 31. The rules would require that facilities emitting more than 10,000 metric tons of GHGs would have to report their emissions to the state. A facility would have to burn more than one million gallons of diesel to emit this amount of GHG. Facilities that emit more than 25,000 metric tons would be subject to a GHG cap and trade program in which there is a proposed annual 2% reduction in GHG emissions. The program would start in 2012 provided that there is sufficient market size (> 100 million metric tons). New Mexico would NOT go alone with this cap and trade program. New Mexico participates in the Western Climate Initiative (WCI), co-founded by Governor Richardson in 2007 with the governors of Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington, and presently includes all the western states as either partners or observers. Only if a sufficient number of states within the WCI participate would the cap and trade program start. Before the New Mexico program could begin, it would have to be approved by the Environmental Improvement Board (EIB). Hearings before the EIB began on September 20, 2010.

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## In Support of NMED's Cap And Trade Petition - *Testimony of Lora Lucero, AICP, Esq. to the Environmental Improvement Board - September 20, 2010*

Good evening. My name is Lora Lucero. I am the Natural Resources Director for the League of Women Voters of New Mexico. The League supports this petition.

I don't want to repeat testimony and facts that support this petition. Saying the same thing many times over doesn't make it any clearer or more urgent.

The League of Women Voters commends the EIB [Environmental Improvement Board] for all of the hearings you've held around the state on both petitions. As the fact-finder, you must sift through all of the evidence and testimony and determine what's in the best interest of New Mexicans—both those here today and those yet to be born.

As a grandmother, my focus is on the world my granddaughter will inherit when she becomes an adult. I'm truly alarmed and believe there is a very good chance that her world will be much more difficult because my generation was too slow to act in the face of irrefutable evidence about global warming.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Testimony at NMED *(Continued from page 7)*

In an ideal world, Congress would act and set a cap on carbon. We know this is not an ideal world.

In the absence of leadership from Congress, we might expect the Administration to act boldly and everyone jump on board. However, last week we learned that industry groups are asking the courts to stay implementation of the EPA carbon regulations set to go into effect January 2011.

The states must act. [New Mexico Environment Department] NMED's petition ensures that New Mexico will not act alone, but consistent with a regional approach.

The bottom line is—and the question I hope you ask yourselves when you weigh the pros and cons of establishing a cap and trade program is—can New Mexico afford to wait and not act to cut carbon emissions? The League believes time has run out. Any delay in establishing a cap on carbon is irresponsible. We urge you to approve NMED's petition. Thank you.

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## October 24 - UN's 65th Birthday - *Bonnie Burn , Reporting*

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) has a long relationship with the United Nations (UN). In observance of its 65th birthday, the discussion at the October League Lowdown will be the United Nations and our guest speaker, Professor Lapid (see p.1) will be the Lunch with the Leader guest speaker on the same topic.

In preparation for both of these events, provided here is a history byte of the League's involvement with the UN.

In recognition of the need for a mechanism to facilitate settlement of international disputes, at the first League convention in 1920 delegates called for "adhesion of the United States to the League of Nations with least possible delay." The issue of U.S. participation in the League of Nations turned into a bitter partisan battle. Active League support did not materialize until 1932, after the takeover of Manchuria by Japan.

During World War II, the League studied the U.S. participation in a world-wide organization , and in

1944 supported U.S. membership in the UN. Before the UN was formed, the League launched a nationwide campaign to help build public understanding of the Dumbarton Oaks and Bretton Woods agreements to establish the UN, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The League trained more than 5,000 speakers and distributed more than a million brochures during a six-month period. In 1945, at the UN Charter Conference the League was one of 42 nongovernmental organizations invited by President Harry Truman to serve as consultants to the U.S. delegation. The League has continued its association with the UN as a UN observer.

Throughout the years, the League has

- undertaken studies to call for strengthening the UN and its specialized agencies.
- encouraged the US to upgrade the role of the UN in US foreign policy, and to meet its financial obligation to the United Nations.
- worked for greater use and strengthening of the UN peacekeeping force.
- focused on women's and girls' issues by participating in the UN Fourth World Conference on women and the NGO Forum on Women in Beijing, China (1995).
- focused on the plight of girls throughout the world.
- co-sponsored a regional conference of the President's Interagency Council on Women, "Women 2000: Beijing Plus Five."
- supported the ratification of CEDAW (Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women).
- corresponded with President Bush to encourage continued diplomatic efforts in Iraq and use of military force as a last resort.
- co-sponsored a conference, "What Future for the United Nations?," in November 2003.
- continued to focus on status of women's and girls' rights and encouraged the UN Commission on the Status of Women to explore the role of men and boys in gender equality.
- supported the UN's goal of ending world poverty and the UN's Millennium Goals.

Annually, Doris Shapira, LWVUS UN Observer, prepares a report of the happenings at the UN. A recent press release announced a restructuring decision to bring together, under one office, the various offices that focus on women's issues (see *The VOTER*, August issue, p. 4).



## New Mexico

### Government Restructuring Task Force

Observers, Kathy Campbell, President, LWVNM  
Jody Larson, Action/Advocacy Director, LWVSFC

The sixth meeting of the Task Force was held on September 16 and 17. Meeting materials should be posted at the NM Legislative website, [www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov). Public comments may be made at the same site.

In the morning session of the first day, staff members of the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) and Legislative Council Service made a presentation about health and human services issues. The charts presented many views of the connections and overlaps among programs, functions, and agencies (including numerous boards and commissions). The “maze” only could be understood by looking at the charts. For the task force members, viewing the complexity raised the issues of spending money wisely and accountability among the components.

During a discussion about restructuring government, staff presenters noted that reorganizing agencies saves very little money and there was some feeling that the Task Force needs to deal with large parts of the budget (e.g., education that accounts for over half the state budget and Medicaid). Someone mentioned that building rent was not being considered. Although government employment has dropped by 10% in the last year, the number of square feet rented has increased.

The afternoon session focused on discussion of departments for restructuring. Using the principles of efficiency and effectiveness, the following were considered:

- Restructuring the General Services Department
- Consolidating many small boards and commissions that provide services to targeted groups (e.g., women, veterans, disabled).
- Creating a Commerce Department that consolidates all of the units that create wealth within the state (e.g., Economic Development and Tourism, film division, Workforce Solutions).
- Making changes to the Department of Public Safety.
- Creating an Environment and Natural Lands Management Department or Energy and Environment Department.

- Changing the Public Regulation Commission.
- Repealing the intertribal ceremonial office and board
- Limiting exempt politically appointed positions.

During public comment, Susan Loubet, Executive Director of NM Women’s Agenda, gave an overview of the need for the Commission on the Status of Women and why it should remain a separate entity.

The focus for the second day was education. A discussion about restructuring involved the following:

- Reducing the number of cabinet departments and overlap among them
- Changing how things are financed (e.g., the funding formula)
- Improving functionality (e.g., centralizing some functions)
- Making operations as efficient and effective as possible.

Two bills were reviewed: (1) A constitutional amendment dealing with the section that created the Public Education Department and an elected Public Education Commission; and (2) A bill that has rules for applying small-school-size adjustment and small district adjustment in the funding formula.

A number of issues were discussed including the permanent fund, an endowment fund that is expected to grow at a rate of 8% annually; why education is 60% of the budget; smaller class sizes in lower grades; lottery scholarships and payment for remedial studies; cost of information technology; extending the number of school days; and teacher training.

Before adjourning, the Committee voted to have these issues drafted into bills:

- Consolidation of information technology.
- Flexibility in use of lottery scholarships (that must currently be used in eight consecutive semesters starting the semester after graduation from high school).
- Tying teacher evaluation to student success and participation by parents.
- Moving remedial funding to pre-K.
- Revamping teacher training and teacher licensing rules.
- Merging the Public Education and Higher Education Departments.

## 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, September 21, 2010 - Johnnie Aldrich Observer**

Today's meeting was of the "short and sweet" variety. The only order of business on the agenda was to accept the resolution regarding curbside recycling passed by the Las Cruces City Council at its September 20 meeting. SCSWA Director Patrick Peck characterized bringing curbside recycling to Las Cruces as a "long, arduous process."

The resolution itself is prefaced by several "whereases" to which the observer did not have access in time for this report, but for those who have not seen the resolution, I quote: "A Resolution Establishing a \$2.59 Per Month Surcharge for all Solid Waste Customers Residing Within the Municipal Boundaries of the City of Las Cruces on the Recommendation of the Las Cruces City Council and Approving and Recommending the Award to Friedman Recycling, Inc. of El Paso, Texas."

After 45 minutes of discussion among Board members, the following clarification points can be added:

- Friedman Recycling will be required to set up its operating procedure offices in Las Cruces and hire local workers. Las Cruces thus will realize immediate financial benefits from the program in the form of jobs and gross receipts taxes.
- A major goal of having curbside recycling in Las Cruces is to increase opportunities for recycling industries to locate in Doña Ana County. None exist here now because the business depends upon volume. Curbside recycling should let us reach the needed tonnage to attract those kinds of industries to the area.
- The resolution refers only to residential customers. Small businesses and apartment

complex customers have totally separate accounts and fees. The residential and commercial programs are separate.

- For those senior citizens of Las Cruces who have been paying no solid waste fees, the monthly charge now will be \$2.59. For those under age 60 who did not have the exemption, the \$2.59 is added to the \$3.09 that they now pay.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

### **The South Central Recycling Partnership, September 9, 2010 - Allen McBrayer, Observer**

The meeting this month centered on a couple of upcoming events; the Information Booth at the Las Cruces Farmer's Market, the Southern New Mexico State Fair & Rodeo and the E-Scrap Collection on November 13.

On Saturday, September 25, (same day as The Whole Enchilada Fiesta), the South Central Recycling Partnership had to reschedule their booth at the Farmer's Market, from 9:00 – Noon. We plan to hand out informative material concerning curbside recycling and greet market attendees who might have questions, at a future date yet to be announced. The booth in July was a lot of fun and we met a lot of real nice people. This month, scheduling was just too crazy. Everyone come down to the Farmers' Market anyway, if you can. The Market is always free and always fun.

The Southern New Mexico State Fair is coming up on September 29, 30, October 1, 2, & 3. South Central Solid Waste Authority is setting up a booth with support from Friedman Recycling, (El Paso), and the New Mexico Recycling Coalition, (Albuquerque). Volunteers will staff the booth and answer questions. Recycling containers will be everywhere and, with the help of the local 4-H Club, we will have recycle containers in the barns as well.

*(Continued on page 11)*

**SCRaP** (Continued from page 10)

The fair is always a winner and this year promises to be even better. I hope to see you at the fair.

This year's electronic recycling, E-Scrap Collection, is building to be yet another party. The Saturday, November 13, event will be at the same location as last year, (County Building Parking Lot, 845 Motel Blvd., 9:00 – Noon). Radio 101 Gold, will do a live remote from the E-Scrap location, and DJs will interview locals as they drop off recyclable material. The fun just keeps on coming.

Next, I would like to introduce a new recycling group called, "Haven On Earth." Its founder, LaToya Renee Garcia, gathered some high energy friends to promote recycling by putting on a Fashion Show at Lorenzo's de Mesilla, on Sunday September 19, at 3:00PM. The event had a \$2 dollar cover charge or was free if you wore green. At least 200 attendees filled the Palermo Room to view the fashion show. These young people deserve all of our support. I'm sure everyone was glad they came out to see the show and support recycling. "Haven On Earth," got a nice write-up in the Sun-News on Wednesday, September 15.

I attended several of the recent Mayor's Public Meetings concerning curbside recycling. In spite of some opposition and a few pointed questions about cost, the feeling of the majority seemed to be very much in favor of curbside, though not 100%. Many attendees expressed their support and encouraged the Mayor and the Council to move forward with the plan. The cost was considered reasonable for this important service.

The big vote for Curbside Recycling happened on

Monday, September 20. The City Council voted to support this important issue. Many city residents attended the meeting, held in the Council chambers. The audience was a sea of green shirts and hats. It was very gratifying to see so much support. Thank you to all who attended. Unfortunately, due to the extended meeting time, many had to leave before the issue could be addressed. The positive outcome of this vote however, will determine the future direction of our city. I commend the Mayor and the City Council for their hard work and their vision. The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. Thank you for recycling.

**NMSU Board of Regents – September 17, 2010** – John Lazaruk, *Common Cause, Observer*

The New Mexico State University Board of Regents met on September 17, 2010. They approved improvements to the chilled water system costing \$24 million to be completed in the spring of 2012. Associate Dean Kevin Boberg presented information about the construction of an Early College High School (ECHS) building that is being built in the Arrowhead Research Park on the southeast portion of the Las Cruces campus. The ECHS, a collaboration between NMSU and the Las Cruces, Gadsden, and Hatch public school systems, opened in July of this year using facilities at Doña Ana Community College. The Regents attended a ground breaking ceremony in the afternoon. Dr. Barbara Couture, President of the University, presented information on her August 17<sup>th</sup> inauguration and her seven goals for success of the University. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Friday, October 29, 2010, in the Regents Room on Campus.

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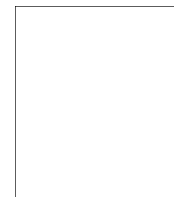
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**FIRST CLASS**

**October 2010**  
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**CALENDAR**

October 4 (Monday) - **Deadline for Reservations for Lunch with a Leader.** RSVP Sharon Burbano (526-2860 or Email: sburbano@aol.com). **Reservations are required.**

October 6 (Wednesday) - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., **Board Meeting**, Branigan Library, Board Room

October 11 (Monday) 10-11 a.m., **League Lowdown: The United Nations.** Marjorie Burr, Good Samaritan Social Center, Small Conference Room.

October 11 (Monday) - 11:30 a.m., **Lunch with a Leader** at Good Samaritan Society, Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. **Topic: Can the United Nations Promote Peace and Security in the 21st Century?.** Lunch is \$8. **Reservation required.**

October 15 (Friday) - **The Voters' Guide in The Bulletin.** *PICK UP A COPY.*

October 20 (Wednesday) - 6:30-8:30, **Candidates' Forum: Candidates seeking local offices (Commissioners, Assessor, Sheriff and Magistrate Judges)**, Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St., Las Cruces, Contact: Nancy Phillips, 524-1373 or phillips775@msn.com.

**Notable Event:** October is United Nations month  
 October 24 - United Nations—65th Birthday  
 October 30 - Halloween

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