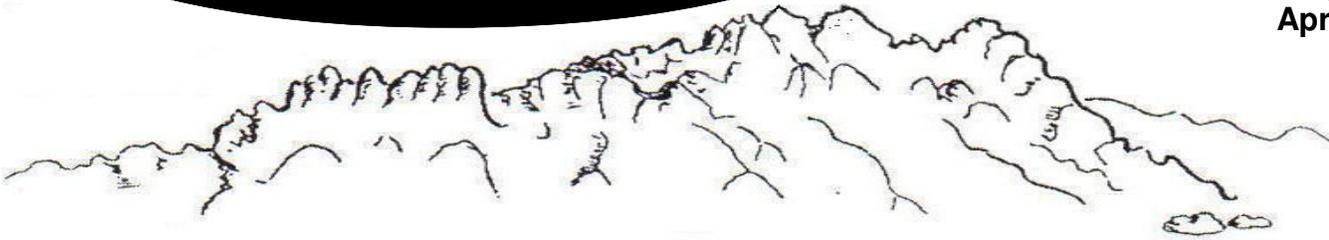


The VOTER

League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
Las Cruces NM
524-VOTE (8683)
www.lwvglc.org
April 2011



2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Most important general meeting of the year!

Saturday, April 16, 2011 - 9 a.m. - Breakfast Meeting
Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions Bonnie Burn
2. Preliminary Business Matters Bonnie Burn
 - Appoint Minutes Recorders and Readers
 - Appoint Parliamentarian
 - Adopt Business Meeting Rules
3. Changes to the Agenda All
4. Approval of the 2010 Annual Meeting Minutes Martha Duran
5. Treasurer's Report (Handouts at Meeting) Barbara Goedecke
6. Report from the President Bonnie Burn
7. Special Member Recognition Bonnie Burn

Annual Meeting Business

- Adoption of the Nonpartisan Policy Bonnie Burn
- Adoption of the 2011-2012 Proposed Budget Erika Graf-Webster
- Proposed Program for Study and Action Marjorie Burr
 - Adoption of current Statement of Positions
 - Adoption of Recommended/Non-Recommended Program for Study and Action
 - Prioritizing Ongoing Program for Study and Action
- Report of the Nominating Committee and Election Donna Tate

Other Annual Meeting Business

- Identification of LWVMN Convention Delegates (May 14-15, Los Alamos)
- Direction to the Board from Members
- Other Business and Announcements

Adjournment

This meeting will start with a buffet breakfast at 9 a.m.
Cost: \$10 - RSVP by Wednesday (April 6, 2011)
Sharon Burbano: 526-2860 or
email: sburbano@aol.com

The VOTER

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Published Monthly

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

P.O. Box 8322
Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322
(505) 524-VOTE (8683)
www.lwvglc.org

President - Bonnie Burn

Vice President & Program
Sharon Burbano

Secretary - Martha Duran

Treasurer - Barbara Goedecke

Director, Membership
Susan Schmugge

Director, Voter Services
Erika Graf-Webster

Director, Public Relations
Roberta Gran

Nominating Committee
Donna Tate, Chair
Jane Carter, Elected Member

STUDY GROUPS

Affordable Housing
Vicki Simons - 522-4813
Chris Little - 573-1882

Education
Bonnie Burn - 526-0013

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

Metropolitan Court
Marjorie Burr - 522-2528

**Election Procedures and
Voter Turnout**
Marnie Leverett - 522-0347

ACTION COMMITTEE
Vicki Simons - 522-4813

Archivist - Barbara Myers

Web Master
Dale Yeo - 405-7530
daleyeo@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor
Bonnie Burn - 526-0013
burnb@comcast.net

Business Meeting Rules:

- Only members will have the privilege of the floor.
- No person may speak twice until all members who wish to speak have spoken.
- Motions with wording important to the minutes will be submitted in writing to the secretary.
- Adoption of recommended items requires approval by a majority of members present; adoption of non-recommended items requires a 2/3's vote.
- Those members present at the Annual Meeting shall constitute a quorum.

League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

April 17, 2010, 9:00 a.m.

Good Samaritan Village, Creative Arts Room, Las Cruces, NM

Attendees: (List on file): 40 members present.

Call to Order: Meeting was gaveled to order by President Bonnie Burn at 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions: President Burn welcomed all and asked all members to introduce themselves.

Adoption of Business Meeting Rules: President Burn read the business meeting rules. Motion: moved by Cathy Matthews, seconded by Sharon Burbano to adopt the rules of the meeting. Motion passed.

Appointment of Parliamentarians: Marjorie Burr and Barbara Myers were appointed by President Burn as parliamentarians.

Changes to the Agenda:

- 1) Announcements were added to the end of the Agenda.
- 2) President Burn asked for two volunteers to proofread the minutes of this meeting: Erika Graf-Webster and Sandra Tatum volunteered. The changes were approved without objection.

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting,
April 18, 2009:** Becky Beckett

requested an amendment to the Behavioral Health Study report, p. 3, para. 5, replacing the wording "reported the state legislature had reviewed a seven page list of new legislation..." with "reviewed the seven page list of legislation..." Motion: Johnnie Aldrich moved and Kate Schultz seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Since Louise Tracey-Hosa withdrew her name from nomination for Treasurer, President Bonnie Burn presented the Treasurer's Report. Following directions to the Board at the 2009 Annual Meeting, she presented a first attempt at an Income Statement and a Balance Sheet. She also reported that the Treasurer's files are in order. A ledger process was developed to give details about transactions recorded in the checkbook, and the check book is balanced with the March 31, 2010 bank statements. A reconciliation of finances will be scheduled for the 2009-2010 fiscal year soon after all transactions appear on the bank statements. Members complimented Bonnie for doing a great job, saying the reports were a good start for the coming year. Members also suggested that a monthly Treasurer's Report should

be published in *The VOTER*. The treasurer's reports were accepted for file.

President's Report: President Burn directed members to the President's Report in the Meeting Section of The VOTER and added an update about events that have happened since her report was published in March. She thanked members for their help with Annual Meeting committee activities and complimented them on dues payments and generous contributions to the League. Priorities for advocacy at the state (ethics, campaign finance reform, and state budget) and national (climate change and health care reform) levels were noted. In an effort to raise the visibility of the League, she spoke about the local League at the Rotary Club and the American Society for Women Accountants.

Members commented on the excellent content and presentation of the Know Your State and Local Government courses offered in collaboration with the Academy of Learning in Retirement. This course also increased the visibility of the League.

Annual Meeting Business:

Adoption of Nonpartisan Policy – Motion: Cathy Mathews moved that the existing non-partisan policy be approved with no changes. Dale Yeo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Bylaw Changes – The Bylaws Committee met on February 4, 2010, and did not recommend any changes. Motion: Kate Schultz moved that the Bylaws be adopted without amendment and Betty Poole seconded. The motion passed

Adoption of 2010-2011 Proposed Budget – In the absence of Connie Lee, chair, Carol Jackson, member of the Budget Committee, presented the proposed 2010-2011 Budget. The committee's proposed budget showed a large deficit, \$8,221, that prompted discussion about accounting formats. Marjorie Burr presented an amended version that was distributed to members for consideration.

The amended operating budget included the current checkbook balance and the amended education fund budget that projected the cost of voter services for election year 2010. The amended budget clarified the need to raise \$6,200 for publication of the General Election (November 2) *Voters' Guide* and *Who's Who*. Discussion of the importance of these two projected expenses brought forth

volunteers to coordinate fund raising. Those volunteering are Nancy Anderson, Mickey Curtis, and Cathy Mathews.

Motion: Marjorie Burr moved that the amended budget be adopted for FY 2010-2011. Cathy Mathews seconded. The motion passed.

Report of Nominating Committee and Election – Johnnie Aldrich thanked her committee members, Marjorie Burr and Pat Pedersen. Also, she thanked Bonnie Burn for collating the members' survey data. She stated that Louise Tracey-Hosa withdrew her name as nominee for treasurer and thanked her for serving briefly as Interim Treasurer. Self-nominations for Treasurer from the floor were Vicki Simons and Barbara Goedecke. A secret ballot was held resulting in Ms. Goedecke receiving the largest number of votes. Motion: Dolores Archuleta moved that the remaining officers be elected by acclamation. Mary Elizabeth Billington seconded. Motion passed.

The final slate of elected officers and directors are:

Vice President for Program
Sharon Burbano (2010-2012)
Secretary – Martha Duran (2010-2012)
Treasurer: Barbara Goedecke (2010-2011)
Director, Voter Services
Erika Graf-Webster (2010-2012)
Director, Membership
Susan Schmutz (2010-2011)

Nominating Committee: 2010-2011
Donna Tate, Chair
Jane Carter, Elected Member

Proposed Program for Study and Action:

• Recommended Program: The League Board of Directors recommended adoption of the following recommended programs for study and action in 2010-2011:

1. Education - current position is to be reviewed and updated (last amended in 1999). The remaining scope of work will be decided by the committee and could include the dropout problem, the financial situation, and the status of civics education in the public schools. Members interested in working on the Education Study are: Jane Ashe, Sue Cain, Erika Graf-Webster, Judy McGuire, Betty Pool, Sally Christman, and Bonnie Burn.
2. Affordable Housing – There is no current position. The committee may look at

Annual Meeting Minutes *(Continued from page 3)*

quantifying the need and ways of achieving a balance of all kinds of housing stock in the community. Also recommended was adding a public transportation component to the study. Those interested in working on the Affordable Housing Study were: Nancy Anderson, Cathy Mathews, Jane Carter (transportation), Sandy Tatum, Win Jacobs, Chris Little, Robbie Levy, Rose Garcia, Marnie Leverett, Judith Scott, and Ellen Haltom. Chris Little and Vicki Simons will co-chair the committee.

Motion: Dale Yeo moved that the proposed recommended program for study and action be approved. Johnnie Aldrich seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- **Non Recommended Program:** Programs not recommended for study and action by the Board were as follows: citizens police review board; gray water for use in landscaping as a method of conservation; redistricting of local government bodies (advocacy on this issue can be pursued under the LWVNM Fair Representation position); children's services, particularly autism (advocacy can be pursued under the Mental Illness Services position); public transportation (included in affordable housing study); and emergency preparedness. These suggestions were made at the Program Planning meeting held in February, and at that meeting, a show of hands indicated little member interest. In order to have a non-recommended item approved for adoption as a recommended item, a two-thirds vote of members attending is required.

Motion made by Becky Beckett seconded by Kate Schultz to accept recommendation not to adopt the non-recommended program study and action items. Motion passed.

- **Priorities for Advocacy:** as opportunities arise, advocacy will be undertaken on completed local program study items listed alphabetically below:
 - Branigan Library
 - Election Procedures/Voter Turnout
 - Mental Illness Services in Doña Ana County
 - Metropolitan Court for Doña Ana County
 - Solid Waste Recycling

Motion: Becky Beckett moved that all of the completed studies and committees be approved for continuing advocacy. Louise Tracey-Hosa seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Motion: Barbara Myers moved and Susan Schmutge seconded that state and national League positions be used to advocate for these priorities. Motion passed.

The national League has not chosen immigration as a priority advocacy issue this year; however, local Leagues who desire may advocate for immigration using the national League position.

Other Annual Meeting Business:

LWVUS National Convention is being held in Atlanta, GA, June 11-15, 2010. Our local League may send two delegates to convention. Delegate numbers are based on membership count—for each 100 members a local League is designated 1 delegate. President Burn sought volunteers to go. None of the members present were interested in going.

LWVNM Council is being hosted by the LWV of Santa Fe County. Local Leagues may send only two delegates, but members can attend as observers. President Burn sought volunteers. Becky Beckett and Erika Graf-Webster volunteered. Registration fees will be forwarded by the League Treasurer. Delegates can submit expense reports when they return.

Directions to the Board

1. Ken Hall recommended that the League obtain the services of Rose Fierro, CPA, an accountant reputed to be very fair and experienced with nonprofit organizations.
2. Becky Beckett requested that the Board work with a balanced budget with no deficit and that two to three months of funds be held in reserve.
3. Louise Tracey-Hosa suggested that the Board establish a cut-off date to pay membership dues in order to clarify the amount new members pay in mid-year. Currently, dues are \$25 for members paying after November 1 and the full \$50 in May at the beginning of the new fiscal year.
4. Erika Graf-Webster asked that the Annual Meeting be electronically recorded to ensure accuracy in the minutes.
5. Jane Carter requested that the immigration court reform be made a priority. There are currently 50 vacant judge positions in the nation. There is a need to educate the general public about this

issue, (i.e., improved access to citizenship). The League of Women Voters can rise above Washington politics and bring local issues to the fore. President Burn mentioned that the International Relations Institute at NMSU is taking the lead with a summer institute on Immigration.

6. There is a need for job descriptions to be posted on the League's website.
7. Add a Finance Chair to the Board.

Announcements

- Becky Beckett announced events associated with mental Health: May is Mental Health Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month. A Health and Fitness Fair is scheduled at Mesilla Valley Mall on May 1. A fund raising walk for the National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI) is scheduled for May 1. Any member donation to NAMI is appreciated.
- Membership renewals begin with the Annual meeting. There is a grace period for payment that ends on July 31. If members paid full membership dues as of March 1, they are "grandfathered" into the new fiscal year.
- Roberta Gran announced that Moveon.org is sponsoring a program on corporate influence in Congress on May 4, 7:00 p.m., in Anderson Hall located at the corner of Stewart and Espina on the NMSU campus

Final Activity of the Annual Meeting: In lieu of a speaker and because a large amount of money needs to be raised for voter services activities, Sharon Burbano led members through an exercise about fund development.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Phillips, Secretary

It is not fair to ask of others what you are unwilling to do yourself.

*Eleanor Roosevelt
League member 1920-1928*

ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS

Nonpartisan Policy Adoption (Membership Directory, pp. 17-18)

Proposed Program for Study and Action

Current Positions: All current positions are recommended for re-adoption.

Recommended Program for Study and Action: Continue the current studies, Affordable Housing and Education for one more year.

1. **Affordable Housing:** The scope of work includes review of existing documents on affordable housing in Doña Ana County, develop a working definition of affordable housing, and interview providers of affordable housing. In the process, we will educate the League membership on the topic and hopefully develop a LWV/GLC position on affordable housing. The issue is complex. Although the committee has been meeting regularly, there is more work than can be done in a one year study. The committee, therefore, is requesting an extension of one year.

Committee composition: Vicki Simons and Chris Little, co-chairs

Committee members: Ruth Brown, Jane Carter, Fran Clark, Rose Garcia, Marnie Leverett, Charlotte McCarthy, Paula Nielson, and Aletta Wilson.

2. **Education Study:** The scope of work is to review the current local League education position, last amended in 1999, to determine if it is adequate and reflects the current situation in the Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS). During the first year, the committee began a literature review and undertook interviews with NMSU College of Education faculty, the Superintendent of LCPS, and the local chapter of the National Education Association. The committee is requesting an extension of one year to complete work on this complex issue.

Committee composition: Bonnie Burn, chair
Committee members: Jane Asche, Sue Cain, Sally Christman, Erika Graf-Webster, Roberta Gran, Judy McGuire, and Betty Pool.

Proposed 2011-2012 Annual Budget

(Assuming 86 full plus 12 household members)

Category	Budget 2010-2011	Actual as of 3/1/2011	Budget 2011-2012
Retained Cash on Hand (Actual as of 1/31/11)		\$4,400	\$4,500
CD Interest (Renewed 1/14/11, CD Value = \$1,076)		\$24	\$0
Income			
Member Dues ¹	\$4,425	\$4,725	\$5,520
Voter Subscription ⁹			\$120
Contributions			
Members	\$225	\$1,417	\$1,500
Community	\$500	\$500	\$500
Fund Raising Event	\$0	\$0	\$1,437
Total Income	\$5,150	\$6,642	\$9,077
Expenses			
Per Member Payment			
LWVUS ²	\$2,584	\$2,268	\$2,760
LWVNM ³	\$1,062	\$1,062	\$1,104
Meeting & Conventions			
LWVUS Convention	\$1,300	\$0	\$650
LWVUS Council	\$200	\$0	\$0
LWVNM Council	\$500	\$0	\$0
LWVNM Convention ⁴	\$0	\$200	\$500
Legislative Day ⁵	\$100	\$60	\$300
Local Annual Meeting ⁶	\$0	\$0	\$100
Legislative Breakfast	\$400	\$16	\$100
Study Group Expenses			
Affordable Housing	\$0	\$0	\$100
Education System	\$0	\$0	\$100
Public Issues Forum	\$250	\$0	\$0
Office Expense			
Telephone	\$500	\$512	\$550
P.O. Box	\$75	\$75	\$75
Office Supplies (Incl. Postage)	\$450	\$304	\$300
Historical Album	\$100	\$0	\$0
Membership Expenses	\$500	\$241	\$300
Fund Drive Expenses	\$200	\$75	\$100
Web Site Domain	\$0	\$25	\$57
Web Site Annual Fee	\$0	\$70	\$81
Liability Insurance ⁷	\$0	\$0	\$375

Notes

1. Member Dues:
\$5,160 = Individual 86@\$60
\$ 360 = 2nd Household 12@\$30
\$5,520
2. Per Member Payment to LWVUS is \$30 per full member, \$15 per 2nd household member
3. Per Member Payment to LWVNM is \$12 per full member, \$6 per 2nd household member
4. Assumption: 5 members may go; allocation per attendee includes \$40 for registration, \$35 for banquet, and the remainder for other expenses
5. Assumption: 3-4 members may go; expense for hotel is budgeted for \$65 per night; the remainder for other expenses
6. Member recognition and fund raising items
7. The Board has deemed it prudent to obtain liability insurance in order to protect the organization in case of accident or injury at one of its function.
8. Assumption: 50 copies (for community sponsors and members who sign up for a printed copy) will be produced and mailed.
9. Printing and mailing the Voter to one member costs \$16.20 (\$0.74 per issue to print, \$0.61 to mail, x 12 issues) per year. Some members have stated that they would rather have a printed copy than an electronic copy. We estimate that 10

(Continued on page 7)

BUDGET - FY 2011-2012 (Continued from page 6)

Category	Budget 2010-2011	Actual as of 3/1/2011	Budget 2011-2012
Voter Service Support (Transfer to Ed Fund)	\$0	\$571	\$0
Publications			
VOTER Printing	\$500	\$605	\$600
VOTER Postage ⁸	\$350	\$318	\$400
Brochure :We Care ...Government	\$200	\$124	\$150
Membership Directory	\$275	\$199	\$225
Membership Directory Postage	\$150	\$100	\$150
Total Expense	\$9,696	\$7,185	\$9,077

Notes (Continued from page 6)

- members will sign up to receive printed copies.
- 10 About \$3,000 over the next 2 years, to support the Voters' Guide for the 2012 General Election.
- 11. Candidate invitations letter postage, thank you notes, print ink cartridge.
- 12. *Who's Who* errata sheet update is published in alternate years to show municipal election results.

PROPOSED 2010-2011 EDUCATION FUND BUDGET

Category	Budget 2010-2011	Actual as of 3/1/2011	Budget 2011-2012
Income			
Transfer from Operations Funds			
• for Voters' Guide	\$0	\$571	\$0
• for Expenses ¹¹	\$0	\$166	\$0
Retained Balance	\$2,301	\$860	\$860
Member Donations	\$4,000	\$935	\$900
Community Support	\$2,199	\$845	\$800
LWVNM Grant for Voters' Guide	\$0	\$678	\$0
Total Income¹⁰	\$8,500	\$4,055	\$2,560
Expenses			
Voter Services			
Voters Guide	\$6,500	\$4,255	\$1,000
Candidates' forum	\$500	\$263	\$300
Who's Who ¹²	1,500	\$0	\$15
Retain in Ed Fund For 2012	\$0	\$0	\$895
Public Education			
Public Issue Forum	\$0	\$0	\$350
Total Expense	\$8,500	\$4,518	\$2,560

**PROPOSED
INCREASE OF
ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
DUES**

May 1, 2011

\$60 - Individual
\$30 - Household

Turn to page 8
for a complete analysis
of the need for this
proposed dues increase.

**PROPOSED
SUBSCRIPTION**

The VOTER

\$12 per year

Analysis to Support Increase in Membership Dues

The Board of Directors undertook an analysis to determine the basis for structuring the 2011 budget.

First, the Board determined what it actually costs to operate the organization on a **per member** basis. This yielded the following information.

Category	Individual	2nd Household
Member Dues:	\$50	\$25
Less PMP for LWVUS*	\$30	\$15
Less PMP for LWVNM	<u>\$12</u>	<u>\$6</u>
Net Income to LWVGLC	\$8	\$4

*PMP = per member payment assessed local Leagues as financial support for national and state Leagues.

Therefore

Average Income from Dues per Member	\$7.56
Average Income from Donations per Member	\$19.17
Total Operational Fund Income per Member	\$27.17
Total Operational Expense per Member	\$36.74
Net Operational Shortfall per Member*	\$9.57

*All numbers calculated independent of each other

This shortfall will only increase in the future because PMP keeps increasing. The Board then reviewed the history of membership dues vs. the rise in per member payment. The last time that LWVGLC raise its dues was in 1998, when the Individual Members dues were set at \$50.

Per Member Payment	1998	2011
LWVUS	\$19	\$30
LWVNM	<u>\$8</u>	<u>\$12</u>
Totals	\$27	\$42

Net Increase in PMP \$15

The League cannot sustain the continued shortfall in operational income. Hence, the Board has deemed it necessary to propose an increase in dues for individual members to \$60 per year and 2nd household members to \$30 per year.

Dues payments are due on May 1 and have to be paid by June 30. Members will receive invoices with self-addressed return envelopes.

PROGRAM FOR STUDY AND ACTION

(Continued from page 5)

Additionally, the committee would like to thank Shirley Armstrong, Rita Caccamise, Marie McCallum, and Nancy Phillips, who gave the committee special help and advice.

- No other items for study and action were suggested.

Prioritize ongoing program for study and action (see Membership Directory, pp. 27-32).

Nominating Committee Report

The following nominees are proposed for election:

For Two Year Terms (2011-2013)

President	Bonnie Burn
Treasurer	Barbara Goedecke
Director, Membership:	Barbara Rose Farber

For One Year Term (2011-2012)

Vice President/Program	Shannez Dudelczyk
------------------------	-------------------

Nominating Committee (One Year Term)

Chair:	Roberta Gran
Elected Member	Sadie Valverde

Respectfully submitted:
 Donna Tate, Chair
 Jane Carter, Elected Member
 Susan Schmutge, Director of Membership

*You make a living by what you get,
But you make a life by what you give.*

*Winston Churchill
British Politician and Statesman
(1874-1965)*

President's Message - League in Review

As the second year of my term in office ends, I can once again say it was a year packed full of activities. Voter services dominated the calendar between May and March as we prepared for the general election on November 2 and the election cycle ended with the distribution of revised *Who's Who*. Two interesting studies, affordable housing and education, have kept more than 20 members busy researching, interviewing, and writing. The complexity of both of these issues made it impossible to finish the studies and reach consensus in one year. Requests to extend both studies are on the Annual Meeting agenda for consideration. Collaborations with other organizations allowed us to make the celebration of the 90th anniversary of Women Win the Vote (August) a community event, and also gave us an opportunity to moderate a public forum on immigration (January). The report on number of "hits" on the League's web site (*VOTER*, March, 2011) shows that the League is making a difference.

Unexpected events popped up this year. Branigan Library celebrated its 75th anniversary and the League, a long time supporter, presented a book, *Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement* by Robert P. J. Cooney, Jr., for its collection. During the Women Win the Vote celebration, keynote speaker, U.S. Magistrate Judge Carmen Garza invited League members to observe immigrant detainee hearings at the U.S. District Court. We accepted the invitation in January. After our initial visit, U.S. District Judge Robert C. Brack invited us back to see the final sentencing hearings. Thus, we were able to observe the entire hearing process. Single stream is the method currently used to recycle materials in Doña Ana County. Friedman Recycling opened its plant in El Paso to a group of community people to tour its recently-automated processing system. For its Grand Opening, the Las Cruces Convention Center offered free booths to non-profit organizations to introduce themselves to the public. The League was there, registered voters, and offered a fun game for kids. A number of League members attended the "Re-energizing America" conference (June) sponsored by Congressman Harry Teague and NMSU President Barbara Couture that was held on campus.

Our Lunch with a Leader featured speakers who updated or brought new information about familiar issues: water, elections, ethics in government, and

immigration. We again held our Breakfast with NM Legislators. In October we celebrated the 65th Anniversary of the United Nations, and cheered on the NMSU Model UN Team at its annual fund drive dinner. We have been following the implementation of the federal Affordable Health Care law and keeping an eye on any legislation about climate change. Our corps of observers are at meetings of the School Board, South Central Recycling Partnership (SCRaP), and South Central Solid Waste Authority meetings, and has produced reports published in the *VOTER*.



I continued to pursue opportunities to bring the League to the attention of the public. Kate Schultz, Marjorie Burr and I were interviewed early in this fiscal year by Todd Dickson on his weekly news show. The purpose was to call attention to the League during its fund drive. Because NM was going to have its first woman governor, Mary Tucker, Progress Club, Bonnie Eisenberg, AAUW, and I were interviewed by KRWG's Jared Anderson. After the election, I was interviewed by Fred Martino for his Newsmakers TV show about the League and civility in public discourse. I also spoke about the women's suffrage movement and the League at meetings of the American Society of Women Accountants, Rotary Club and NMSU Health and Social Services graduate class on policy. I represented the League at the NMSU Immigration and Migration Task Force and the Ad Hoc Immigration Committee of Las Cruces.

In conclusion, I thank all of you for your active participation in our programs and for your financial support—two small words that carry a great deal of meaning. I also want to thank the Board members who served this year, worked together to ensure that the League's activities were completed, and stepped in when help was needed. I'm proud to say that we acknowledged our first 50-year, honorary member, Helen Buggert. Other League member who realized special achievements this year include Ellen Young, as Las Cruces District 6 representative on the Branigan Library Advisory Committee. Terri and Al McBrayer received the Community Recycling Activist Award from the NM Recycling Coalition and the New Mexico Environment Department.

*Thank you for your membership
and support of the League!*

Fund Drive 2010-2011 - Bonnie Burn

Raising money is the least favorite activity of members in the Greater Las Cruces League, and members do not volunteer to do it. During “Directions to the Board” at the 2010 Annual Meeting, recommendations were made: (1) the Board work with a balanced budget with no deficit and two to three months of funds held in reserve, and (2) add a Finance Chair to the Board. The League has not been able to fulfill either of those directions.

Board members served as the Finance Committee once again this fiscal year. Realizing that this was an election year, the goal for the fund drive was to raise enough money to pay the bills generated by voter services, (e.g., \$4,153 for publication of the *Voters’ Guide*). Fortunately, we began raising money for this publication during the 2009-2010 fiscal year and were able to withdraw \$2,900 from our Education Fund to help pay the bill. LWVNM also awarded grants to local Leagues that supplemented the printing cost (\$678). Our local treasury paid \$973 from its operating funds to support the \$4,551 total expenses.

Category	Donations	Education Fund	Total
Members	\$1,417	\$935	\$2,352
Community	\$500	\$845	\$1,345
Grand Total	\$1,917	\$1,780	\$3,697

An initial solicitation letter was mailed in June, 2010, and a second solicitation letter was mailed only to members in December. There was a forty percent response from members who often make a contribution to the League at the time that they pay their dues. Additionally, some members voluntarily made an extra donation to the Education Fund specifically designated for the *Voters’ Guide*. The number of community supporters remained the same but the composition changed. There was an increase in the number of individuals from the community who made donations, and some of the banks did not contribute this year. Decisions for bank philanthropy are made in far off locations, places where the bank headquarters are located, rather than in the local community because of the many mergers and bank buy-outs of local banks. Overall the amount of money raised increased by \$600 over 2009-2010. The increases were seen in member donations to the operating fund, which is

vitality needed, and community support rose in both donations to the operating and education funds. The organization would be a bit healthier if the contributions were closer to a total of \$5,000. To achieve this goal, however, would require personally visiting more local businesses, an activity that requires the participation of a greater number of League members.

There is another phenomenon that is draining our operating funds, the ever increasing cost of our per member payment (PMP) mandated by the League of Women Voters of the United States (see Budget, p. 6). The per member payment required from the League of Women Voters of New Mexico has remained the same for the last four years. In a word, after PMP requirements are met, our local treasury keeps \$8 from a \$50 dues payment.

As you read through this article, please remember that we truly appreciate your financial support, need it to continue to perform as a League, and thank you very, very much for your contributions.

Membership

Susan Schmutge, Director

Our membership count as recorded in the League’s national membership database for 2011-2012 is shown in the chart below, along with numbers from previous years.

<u>Category</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Individual	53	59	75	75
1st Household	7	7	9	12
2nd Household	7	7	9	12
National	10	5	5	0
Honorary	0	0	0	1
Total	77	78	98	100

Our membership count for the past two years has been hovering around 100. This year we lost and gained an equivalent number of members, 12. Of the members who did not rejoin, three moved out of state. In July, long-time member and past president (1991-92), Pat Hyde, died. One of our members dropped her membership and became a community supporter. In this capacity her entire annual contribution is kept in the local treasury and not subject to the annual per member payment

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MEMBERSHIP *(Continued from page 10)*

assessment required by the national League. LWVUS has discontinued the national members-at-large program that was a source of member recruitment for local Leagues. At present, the best source of member recruitment continues to be our current members.

We recognized our first honorary member. Helen Buggert achieved 50 years of membership in the League. As an honorary member, she no longer pays dues but has all of the privileges of membership. We celebrated this happy occasion at the Lunch with a Leader meeting in August, the month during which we also celebrated the 90th Anniversary of women winning the vote.

On January 10, we held an orientation for new members. Additional orientations occurred at newly scheduled League Lowdown meetings, one hour meetings held before Lunch with a Leader meetings. These smaller meetings provided a more informal setting to discuss in-depth a variety of topics related to the League. Although potential and new members receive packets of information about the League, at its March 2, 2011, meeting, Board members discussed additional services and orientation that may be given to members to increase their enthusiasm, interest, and willingness to serve in leadership positions in the League.

Voter Services Report for June 2010 through April 2011

Erika Graf-Webster, Voter Services Director

The Voter Services effort for the year was intensive and successful. We achieved the goals we set for ourselves at the start, while also learning a number of lessons for making things go better and smoother in future years. The following is a summary of our work for this election year.

Planning and Managing

The Voter Services effort was kicked off at a planning meeting on May 19. This meeting resulted in a detailed plan that listed all the activities and their timelines, was updated with new action items and progress notes, and remained a robust guide.

The Voter Services activities fell into five major areas:

- Voter Registration led by Tom Schmugge
- *Voters Guide* led by Dale Yeo
- Candidate Forums led by Nancy Phillips
- Legislative Breakfast led by Erika Graf-Webster
- *Who's Who* also led by Dale Yeo

These individuals, with constant coordination with President Bonnie Burn and Voter Services Director Erika Graf-Webster, established their own approaches for getting the jobs done, and successfully completed all assignments.

Voter Registration

Six Voter Registration sessions were held at four different venues. A total of 60 new voters were registered. The registration session at Mayfield High School was the most successful by far, resulting in 36 new 18-year-old voters.

Voters Guide

The development of the *Voters Guide* started in June. The LWV/GLC Board agreed to sole-source the printing of the Guide to the *Bulletin*, and a contract was signed with that newspaper on June 2. Dale Yeo made several trips to the Bureau of Elections to obtain a list of the declared candidates and their related information. By mid-September, we had current contact information for all the candidates, including a magistrate judge who was appointed to replace a judge who resigned at the end of August. Dale, with the help of her *Voters Guide* Committee, developed the questions to be posed to the candidates, and the instructions for their responses. The questions were sent to the candidates, and all but four responded by the deadline. We also received information on the state candidates from the state League (LWVNM). In total, 61 candidates were listed in our *Voters Guide* – all that appear on our local ballot. After extensive proofreading, the *Bulletin* did the layout of the Guide, and printed 24,500 copies, of which 20,000 were distributed as part of the October 15 Bulletin issue, 3,000 were purchased by NMSU, and the remainder were distributed to a variety of community service entities, such as libraries, hospitals and churches.

Candidate Forums

While we had planned for possibly four candidate forums, we ended up with two, one for the state offices and one for the local offices (the gubernatorial candidates and the US Representative candidates chose not to accept our invitations). The state candidates forum was held on September 22

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Voter Services *(Continued from page 11)*

at the Munson Center, and included candidates for State Representatives, Public Regulation Commission, Public Education Commission and District Judge. A total of 18 candidates attended, and the general consensus was that it went well. The candidates were particularly grateful that we had distributed a handout to the attendees that listed all the candidates and described their offices, so that the candidates themselves did not have to spend their allocated time on that subject. While the forum itself went well, there were logistical problems. The committee, therefore, decided to hold the local candidates forum at the Good Samaritan Auditorium instead, on October 20. Candidates attending this forum represented the following offices: County Commissioners, County Assessor, County Sheriff, County Probate Judge, and Magistrate Court Judges.

Legislative Breakfast

The Legislative Breakfast took place on December 11 at Good Samaritan's. We invited all 12 (four State Senators and eight State Representatives) of our local legislators to the Breakfast. However, due to legislative committee assignments (some committees were still in session), and other conflicts, only Representatives Mary Helen Garcia and Andy Nuñez attended. The discussions about upcoming legislation, including bills pertaining to education and regulatory reform, were lively and informative.

Who's Who

Dale Yeo virtually single-handedly collected all the new information for elected officials, and updated the baseline Who's Who (from 2009) with the current data. The Who's Who was again sponsored and printed by the Bulletin, and we were provided 3,500 copies on March 11. The copies were distributed to a large number of locations.

Affordable Housing Committee Report

Vicki Simons and Christina Little, Co-Chairs

The Affordable Housing Committee has been meeting regularly since June of 2010. It is headed by Christina Little and Vicki Simons, Co-Chairs, and includes Ruth Brown, Jane Carter, Fran Clark, Rose Garcia, Marnie Leverett, Charlotte McCarthy, Paula Nielson and Aletta Wilson. League members Rose

Garcia, Robbie Levey and Bonnie Burn have given the committee special help and advice.

The Mission Statement of the Committee reads: The committee will review existing documents on affordable housing in Dona Ana County, develop a working definition of affordable housing, and interview providers of affordable housing. In the process, we will educate the League membership on the topic and ultimately bring to the membership consensus questions or a concurrence statement that will hopefully result in a LWV/GLC position on affordable housing.

Our first meeting in June was a planning session and brought together League members who are very knowledgeable about the affordable housing issue and have participated in policy making. These League members, Ellen Haltom, Win Jacobs, Robbie Levey and Sharon Thomas, along with committee members and David Dollahon, City of Las Cruces Community Development Manager (only non-League member present), discussed possible interviews, reading materials, and provided general direction for the committee. Committee members Christina Little and Jane Carter have also been part of agencies involved in providing housing but are not currently involved.

The committee has done a lot of reading including history of affordable and public housing in the country, definitions of affordable housing and criteria used, types of subsidies provided, local, state and federal laws and regulations that govern affordable housing programs, needs assessments, types of governmental programs available to clients and to agencies that provide affordable housing in the county, sections of the City of Las Cruces Consolidated Plan (which is being updated now), recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Affordable Housing Strategy from 2008, and various other documents. It is a very complex issue.

The committee has met with four of the major providers of affordable housing in the county: City of Las Cruces Community Development Manager, David Dollahon, who directs the City's affordable housing program; Tom Hassell, Executive Director, and Robbie Levey, Deputy Director, from the Las Cruces Housing Authority; Ed Johnson, Habitat for Humanity Executive Director, and Rose Garcia, Executive Director of Tierra del Sol. Members of the

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Affordable Housing *(Continued from page 12)*

committee composed a specific list of questions for each of the above providers. Topics of questions were sources of funding, relationships among the agencies that provide affordable housing in the county, various types of housing provided, estimates of need for housing and of what type, number of housing units each agency has built, and plans for the future.

Another activity in which the members have been involved is attending various meetings regarding affordable housing: the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority's (state agency that manages affordable housing) Town Hall in August, a city public hearing on developing a trust fund and land bank to finance affordable housing and a city/county work session on merging the city and county housing authorities.

The Affordable Housing Committee will continue meeting with agencies that provide services in the county and with policy makers. This will probably take the rest of 2011. The committee plans to present its report and consensus or concurrence propositions to League members early in 2012. We welcome any League member who would like to join the committee--there is still much to be learned.

Education Committee Report

Bonnie Burn, Chair

The first committee meeting of this study was held in May, 2010. The first committee members included Sally Christman, Erika Graf-Webster, Marie McCallum, Nancy Phillips, Betty Pool, and Bonnie Burn. We continued to meet through the summer, and Shirley Armstrong and Rita Caccamise, a new League member, joined the group. Voter services activities during the summer and member travel plans created some instability in the committee; however, the committee is now organized with the following members: Jane Asche, Sue Cain, Sally Christman, Roberta Gran, Erika Graf-Webster, Judy McGuire, Betty Pool, and Bonnie Burn.

Our scope of work from the beginning was to review the current local League education position, last amended in 1999, to determine if it is adequate and reflects the current situation in the Las Cruces Public

School District.

Committee members began collecting and sharing newspaper and journal articles, books, and other information to identify current issues in education. Two seminal books were identified for this study: *Death and Life of the Great American School System* by Diane Ravitch, 2010, and *The Flat World and Education* by Linda Darling-Hammond, 2010.

Interviews have been completed as follows:

- NM State Senator Steve Fischmann, member of the Senate Education Committee, who presented his views about education in New Mexico and goals he is pursuing as a member of this legislative committee. Al Kissling joined him at this meeting and discussed his focus on early childhood education, pre-kindergarten.
- Drs. Luis Reyes and Cristobal Rodriguez, professors, College of Education, NMSU, who discussed the education of new teachers and teacher performance and salary.
- Superintendent Stan Rounds, Las Cruces Public School System, met with our committee twice. First, we discussed a variety of school operational issues: curriculum, annual yearly progress (AYP), role of the teacher in education, student testing and general issues for the school district. Steven Sanchez, Ph.D., Associate Superintendent, Division of Learning, Teaching and Research, was present, as well. In our second interview, Assistant Superintendent Terry Dean was present and the topic was school finance.
- Patrick Sanchez, president of the local chapter of the National Education Association, and others from the chapter met with the committee on March 1. Again, issues related to educating new teachers, classroom issues for teachers, student testing, teacher performance and its relationship to student testing, and a variety of other issues were discussed. The president of the unclassified employees union that covers classroom education assistants, janitors, gardeners and others was also present and presented issues from her perspective.
- On March 3, a meeting with School Board members, Dr. Connie Phillips, President, and

(Continued on page 14)

Education *(Continued from page 13)*

Bonnie Votaw, covered information about the relationship of school boards to the school district and what elected members can and cannot influence.

- To begin educating members, the Education committee has posted information on the League's web site, www.lwvglc.org, under the Program tab. We've just reorganized the web page so that we have a full copy of the report, "Race to the Top," that is President Obama and Secretary of Education's plan to achieve educational goals for all children. There is also a "Study Paper" link where papers written by members of the committee are posted. Currently, our interview with Drs. Reyes and Rodriguez is the only one posted, but as papers are written and reviews are completed, they will be added. Finally, a link, Other Information, will take you to some of the other material the committee has identified as important to the study.

Our local public education system is complex. To complete its work, the committee is asking for an extension for another year of study. Year 2 work will involve completing the literature review and interviews that are pending, educating members, and reaching consensus.

The VOTER

For the past two years, the VOTER, the League's monthly newsletter, has been sent electronically to our members and to individuals in the community who receive complementary copies. The rise in postage was a major factor in the decision to move to an e-VOTER, and it continues to be a driving factor in decisions about the VOTER.

As we've gained experience with the electronic process, however, our members have called attention to concerns. For example, sometimes the pdf application doesn't work on a computer and the issue cannot be printed. Ink cartridges and paper costs mount up for the recipient. After opening the document on the computer, it is not printed out, forgotten, and has to be searched for again.

The Board decided to explore ways that a printed copy may be offered. Before e-VOTER, the expense for printing was about \$1,000 and postage was about \$600. When calculations were made to determine if a subscription could be offered, the subscription rate came to \$16.20 per year. Again, postage is a major factor—at present one ounce of mail costs \$0.44, and a second ounce adds \$0.17 bringing postage cost to \$0.61 (See budget footnotes 8 and 9, p. 6)

A random sampling of just a few members after Lunch with a Leader revealed that some members were willing to pay a subscription rate to receive a printed copy of the VOTER. As a pilot program during this fiscal year, we are proposing a \$12 subscription rate that is not the full calculated subscription rate. Based on interest we receive for this offer, the Board and Budget Committee for the next fiscal year (2012-2013) will be able to assess the viability of this proposal.

If you want to subscribe, please let the editor, Bonnie Burn, know of your intention (526-0013 or burnb@comcast.net) and make your check payable to LWV of Greater Las Cruces. Mark the check note area: Subscription. Mail to your check to:

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

Remember that the VOTER is posted to the League's web site, www.lwvglc.org.

*It is easy to make a buck.
It's a lot tougher to make a
difference.*

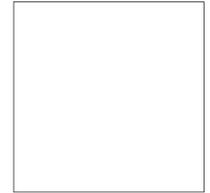
*Tom Brokaw
American Television Newscaster
and Journalist
(1940-Present)*

NOTES



(575) 524 VOTE (8683)
Web Address: www.lwvglm.org

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FIRST CLASS

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**PLEASE BRING THIS VOTER AND THE
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
WITH YOU
TO THIS MEETING**

CALENDAR

April 6 (Wednesday) - **Deadline for Reservations for Annual Meeting.** RSVP Sharon Burbano (526-2860 or sburbano@aol.com)

April 15 (Thursday) - Noon - **Deadline for The VOTER, May issue.**

April 16 (Saturday) - 9:00 a.m. - **ANNUAL MEETING,** Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. **BREAKFAST** is \$10. **Reservations required.**

MARK Your Calendar

May 14-15 - LWVNM State Convention, Los Alamos.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

- John Ameriks, M.D.
- Biad Chile Ltd. Co.
- Joseph P. Camunez, DDS
- Citizens Bank
- Dental Associates, PA
- Doggie Dude Ranch and Cat Farm
- Donald and Winifred Dresp
- Adrian and Jackie Edwards
- Edward Jones - Connie Lee
- First New Mexico Bank
- Lilley Law Offices
- Louise P. Lockhart
- Francisco Mario Ortiz Law Firm
- Tom Tate
- Zia Engineering & Environmental Consultants

Thank You

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.