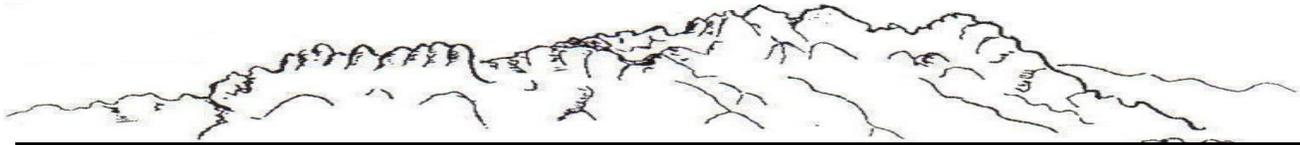


The VOTER

League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
Web Site: www.lwvglc.org
November 2014



Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument *What's Next?*

William T. Childress, District Manager, Bureau of Land Management

Lunch with a Leader, Monday, November 10, 2014, 11:30 a.m.
Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room

The Bureau of Land Management's Las Cruces District is responsible for managing approximately 5.4 million surface acres in six southwest counties in New Mexico (Otero, Sierra, Luna, Grant, Hidalgo and Doña Ana). Within this landscape it is responsible for managing a variety of uses including two National Monuments, 25 Wilderness Study Areas, 28 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, four developed Recreation Sites, a National Historic Trail and a National Scenic Trail.

With the establishment of the new Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, the Bureau of Land Management's Las Cruces District Office has a lot of work ahead to establish long-term management for the monument through the development of a Resource Management Plan. In the meantime, the District Office is delineating the National Monument boundary in key locations with portal

(Continued on page 2)

CALENDAR

November 3 (Monday) - Deadline for making reservations for Lunch with a Leader

RSVP: Roberta Gran, Email: robertagran@q.com, Tel: 373-8490

November 4 (Tuesday) - ELECTION DAY - Voting Convenience Centers open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

November 6 (Thursday) - 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Board Meeting, City Hall Conference Room 2007A. All are welcome!

November 10 (Monday) - 11:00-11:30 a.m., Study Committee Updates: An effort to inform members about the issues currently under study. Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle.

November 10 (Monday) - 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Lunch with a Leader: William T. Childress, District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. \$10. Reservations Required: Roberta Gran, Email: robertagran@q.com, Tel: 373-8490. If reservations are not cancelled, you will be charged.

November 17 (Monday) - 9:00 a.m., Unit Meeting: Education Update, Good Samaritan Social Center, Conference Room (downstairs near Main Auditorium).

November 20 (Thursday) - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Third Thursday Book Club, Capital in the Twenty-First Century by Thomas Picketty. At the home of Ardyth Norem. 522-0780, ardythnorem@icloud.com

Notable Dates: **November 12** - Elizabeth Cady Stanton Birthday (1815-1902)
November 27 - Thanksgiving

The VOTER

Volume 46, Issue 6– November 2014
Usually 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 - Erika Graf-Webster

**Vice President & Program for
Study and Action**
Gwen Hanson

Secretary - Sadie Valverde

Treasurer - Ruth Benjamins

Director, Membership
Johnnie Aldrich

Co-Directors, Voter Services
Marcia Anderson & Dale Yeo

Director, Events and Speakers
Roberta Gran

Nominating Committee
Chair: Ardyth Norem
Elected Member: Sue Cain

Program for Study & Action

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

Education
Ruth Benjamins - 527-0204
Bonnie Burn - 526-0013

Election Procedures
Erika Graf-Webster

Health Care
Vicki Simons - 522-4813

Mental Health Services
(Vacant)

Quality of Life (Happiness)
Cynthia Pelak - (575) 496-3170

Voting Impediments
Roberta Gran - 373-8490

Water Issues
Win Jacobs - 521-9331

ACTION COMMITTEE
Barbara Goedecke - 522-0323

Web Master
Dale Yeo - 405-7580

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

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks *(Continued from page 1)*

signs, identifying current activities and recreational opportunities, and developing interim procedures for managing the area.

Bill Childress, District Manager, has been with the Bureau of Land Management for 40 years. He has held positions in Nevada and Arizona and he has worked for the Bureau in Roswell, Carlsbad and Las Cruces, New Mexico. He has been the Las Cruces District Manager since 2008. Bill received his college degree in Physical Geography with a minor in Soils and Rangeland resources from Arizona State University. He is married with four children.

Board Highlights – October 2, 2014, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., City Hall, Conference room 2007A

Much of the October meeting was devoted to the discussion of our Voter Services activities. Dale Yeo delivered all of the final text for the *Voters Guide* to the Las Cruces Sun-News. One final proofreading session took place, and the *Voters Guide* was published and distributed on October 5 as an insert into the Las Cruces Sun-News newspaper. Extra copies were distributed throughout the Greater Las Cruces region and the North and South Valleys of Doña Ana County. The Board really liked the front page design that the Sun-News developed.

All preparations for the Candidate Forums on October 7 and 14 have been completed. Marcia Anderson reported that we expect all the candidates that have been invited to attend. Arrangements also have been made to offer simultaneous Spanish translation to the forum attendees.

The Board reviewed and approved four fact sheets that reflect our League's legislative advocacy priorities during the 2015 NM legislative session. The issues fact sheets cover education, affordable housing, health and water. Gwen Hanson and Bonnie Burn will develop information folders that will be given to our legislators in meetings preceding the start of the legislative session on January 20, 2015.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) convened the first women's suffrage convention in 1848 in Seneca Falls, NY. A Declaration of Sentiments was drafted and for the first time in public voting rights for women was demanded. In 1851 she met Susan B. Anthony and began a 50-year collaboration on gaining the vote for women. Stanton wrote speeches and Anthony delivered them. Stanton married Henry Brewster Stanton, a journalist and antislavery orator, and had seven children. Stanton and Anthony published the weekly *Revolution* in New York City. In 1869 they founded the National Woman Suffrage Association renamed the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1890, the group that finally achieved the **VOTE FOR WOMEN** in 1920, some 30 years later.



President's Message

We Do it Well

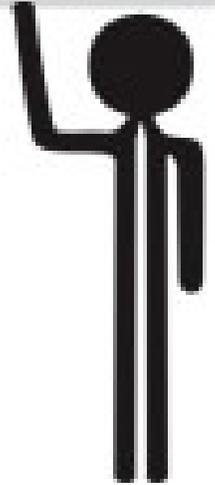
Another election cycle is coming to an end. And, as usual, our Voter Services team and all its member volunteers have done a wonderful job.



Big kudos to Dale Yeo for once again managing the whole *Voters Guide* process. Our state League, with input from all four NM local Leagues, develops the questions for the state-wide candidates and collects their responses. Those are then passed on to Dale, who incorporates them into our local *Voters Guide*. Dale, Marcia Anderson and a number of member volunteers developed the questions for the local candidates. Even though the timeline was very short between certification of the candidates and the deadline for getting the information to the *Las Cruces Sun-News*, publisher of the *Voters Guide*, Dale and her team managed to get this done, though in one case that meant that Dale drove personally to a candidate's home in order to get this response. We batted 1000. ALL of our local candidates were included in our *Voters Guide*. Dale and the *Las Cruces Sun-News* developed a very striking and attention-getting cover for the Guide. We received numerous telephone calls complimenting us on the *Voters Guide*, and several Thank You's for getting it out so early – two days before Early Voting started.

We held three Candidate Forums this year. The first one, on September 9, for the NM Attorney General office and for the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) District 5 candidates, was poorly attended. Personally, I think it was done just too early – people were not yet focused on the upcoming election. Both our second and third forums were quite well attended, with approximately 100 individuals in the audience. The second forum on October 7 featured the county candidates, while the third forum was devoted to the NM House of Representative candidates. I had the privilege of being the moderator for all three forums. What was so striking to me was that, from the outset at the first forum through the end of the third forum, everything went like clock-work. This is due to the excellent job that Marcia Anderson and her team did in planning and conducting the forums. Virtually all the candidates that were invited came. At each forum, everything was ready for them– their water, their name signs, the seating arrangements. The League participants did their jobs flawlessly - the timers, the League question reviewers and the "runners" collecting the questions. So in the end, it all looked easy to the audience, but, believe me, that takes a lot of planning and precision execution. All the candidates thanked us for doing the forum, but one of them (I can't remember who), said, "the League's forums are the GOLD STANDARD for these events." Yes. I agree. We do these things very well.

Erika



GET OUT AND VOTE
November 4

League Friends

- John Ameriks
- Anonymous
- Sharon Burbano
- Bob Burn
- Joseph Camunez, DDS
- Ken & Nancy Hall
- Pat Kratz
- Louise Lockhart
- Barbara Myers
- Clifford Pelton
- Nancy Phillips
- Betty Pool
- Sunspot Solar Energy
- Donna Tate

Thank you

Look Back: Elections: Past, Present & Future
Scott Krahling, Deputy County Clerk and Supervisor, Bureau of Elections
Doña Ana County
Reported by Bonnie Burn

About 30 League members gathered at the Sunset Grill, Sonoma Ranch Golf Course, on Monday, October 6, to enjoy an afternoon event with guest speaker Scott Krahling. The presentation was a give-and-take of information, questions and answers.

Deputy County Clerk Krahling opened his presentation by introducing the Bureau of Election's Mission Statement and Guiding Principles that more clearly define its role.

"The Bureau of Elections protects one of the most fundamental rights of citizens in our democracy by maintaining the integrity of the election process and providing fair and equal opportunities for citizens to vote in Doña Ana County."

During the 2014 General Election, the focus will be on educating eligible voters to manage the election process. This effort opened with an Election Fest held on September 20. It was a first-time community event that provided opportunities for voter registration and for education about the election process. Publicity signs about the General Election will be erected in the North and South Valleys, and more marketing and advertising will be undertaken to **Get Out the Vote**.

The former Tabulator 100 ballot counters have been replaced with new tabulators that have larger screens, enable the voter to ensure the ballot has been counted, and allow disabled voters to vote directly on the tabulator thus eliminating the need for the stand-alone Auto Mark used in previous elections. In Doña Ana County, the machines were used during the Primary Election. Some lessons learned include:

- It now requires more patience as voters get used to the new, all-in-one technology.
- It takes time to go through an entire ballot.
- For the disabled voter, once the voter has approved it, the ballot is not seen again as it goes through the counting process.

Mr. Krahling also reviewed the Constitutional Amendments and the bond issues that will be on the ballot.

He concluded by talking about the future of elections in New Mexico. Election code reforms would eliminate things that don't make sense such as requiring complete lists of all qualified voters at each voting location. Doña Ana County is required to provide a list of 115,000 registered voters at each of the 38 voting convenience centers. Innovations that would make voting easier include tablet technology to reduce lines, completing a ballot at home and bringing in a barcoded ballot to cast one's vote, and closing voter registration closer to election day rather than 28 days before an election as is now required.



"Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education."

Franklin D. Roosevelt



League News



Voter Service

Marcia Anderson, Co-Director

Candidate Forums: We can look back on three successful and appreciated Candidates Forums. All candidates expressed sincere gratitude to the League for continuing our tradition of holding the forums, as did many of the community members present. Of the 33 candidates invited, 32 participated. Andy Nuñez expressed his regret that the Hatch Trustees meeting also was on October 14 and, as Hatch Mayor, he would miss the forum. Thanks to the following Leaguers who helped at one or more, of the three Candidates Forums: Roberta Gran, Ellen Young, Bob Burn, Johnnie Aldrich, Dale Yeo, Sadie Valverde, Sue Schmutge, Gwen Hanson, Vicki Simons, Bonnie Burn, Sue Cain, Barbara Goedecke and, of course, our moderator and President, Erika Graf-Webster.

Voter Registration: Registrars have been at NMSU Corbett Center twice, at Doña Ana Community College, at Good Samaritan Village, and at Mountain View Market. At the suggestion of Bonnie Votaw, League member and President of the Las Cruces School Board, teachers and employees were registered at several Las Cruces Public Schools--Mayfield and Centennial High Schools, Vista and Zia Middle Schools, and Jornada and Conlee Elementary Schools. Approximately 30 voters were registered. Thank you to Kurt Anderson and Marjorie Burr, who coordinated the effort and registered voters, and to our registrars that included: Cathy Mathews, Tom Schmutge, Johnnie Aldrich, Cynthia Pelak, Sue Cain, Mildred Evaskovich, Rosemarie Sanchez, and Charlotte Lipson.

Voters Guide: It came out October 5 in the Las Cruces Sun-News thanks to the

phenomenal job Dale Yeo, Editor and Co-Director, Voter Services, did in getting 100% response from local candidates! The questions for the Guide were compiled by Ardyth Norem, Dale Yeo, Sue Cain, Vicki Simons and Marcia Anderson, and the Guide was proofread by Bonnie Burn, Gwen Hanson, Charlotte McCarthy, Dale Yeo and Marcia Anderson. Distribution to locations within Doña Ana County was done by several members. CAFé had the Guide translated into Spanish and distributed it a bit later.

Looking forward: We are inviting you to come to the **Legislative Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, December 6, 9-11 a.m.**, Good Samaritan Social Center, to hear newly elected NM Representatives and incumbent NM Senators weigh in on timely issues. The *2015 Who's Who* is the next major Voter Service project. To assist with information gathering, which is a big job, please contact Dale Yeo (575-405-7530, Email: daleyao@comcast.net) if you are willing to help.

Again, a great big Thank You to all who helped make the 2014 Voter Services Program a great success!

Education Committee

Bonnie Burn, Co-Chair

Two important events are the focus of work for committee members: (1) Unit Meeting update about the for-profit virtual charter school option, and (2) collaboration with KRWG-TV regarding a series about education issues.

Unit Meeting: At the beginning of the League year, committee members realized that two significant things were happening in education in New Mexico: (1) a focus on emphasizing Science, Technology,

(Continued on page 7)

LEAGUE OBSERVER REPORTS

The League's Observer Corps can enable greater coverage and information gathering, provide early warning of upcoming issues of concern, increase League's visibility, and 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.

Ratepayers Advisory Committee,
October 9, 2014, Utilities Center, 680 N.
Motel Blvd - *Susan Schmugge, Observer*

Members of the Ratepayers Advisory Committee (RAC) attended a work session of the Las Cruces Utility Board (LCUB). The Committee suggested that the current process of rate payer changes for the City be less adversarial and more cooperative. The current process uses the same approach as the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) which is by definition more adversarial. The LCUB will take this matter up at a later work session.

The South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA), October 16, 2014,
10:00 a.m., The Transfer Station, 2865 W.
Amador Ave. - *Susan Schmugge, Observer*

The presentation by Director Patrick Peck on proposed new rates was the most important and time-consuming item on the agenda. Members of the Ratepayer Advisory Committee (RAC) had separated the costs and charges for solid waste pickup on future utility bills. It is now up to SCSWA to determine the charges for recycling in the region.

For a standard single family detached dwelling, the cost to collect, transport, and process recycling is currently \$5.40 per month. Since there is currently a Senior Discount, it is hoped that a discount can be kept in the future.

Pay as you throw is now an accepted concept. The city will be offering a smaller 64 gallon trash can to Seniors and any household that has a smaller amount of solid waste on a consistent basis. Because many

who recycle will have less trash plus recycling, the combined fee for solid waste and recycling will be less. By reading the local newspapers, your utility bills, and the City of Las Cruces or Las Cruces Utilities websites you can keep abreast of the new charges that will go into effect on January 1, 2015. If you keep your current 96 gallon can, your monthly costs will be approximately \$13.25. With recycling the full cost will be \$19 or less per month. The SCSWA will consider and vote on the new rate structure at its November 20 meeting.

Las Cruces City Council Work Session, October 13, 2014. City Hall
Council Chambers - *Christina Little, Observer*

The work session dealt with Affordable Housing. This session provided something of an update to the 2011-2015 Consolidated Plan that had estimated a shortage of approximately 4,700 affordable rental units in the City. The number (4,700 rental units) was established in 2009-2010 and published as a goal to be addressed during 2011-2015 by the city. The staff report of the city's efforts covered the last three years and showed the addition of 42 tenant-based rental assistances units, 26 property acquisitions/new construction, and 10 down payment assistance actions.

These additions can be directly tied to Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds, which are received and disbursed by the city. In addition, there are federal Continuum of Care grants, which have assisted 166 individuals, and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which assisted in the preservation of 11 houses in Las Cruces after the Great Recession.

(Continued on page 7)

Observer Reports *(Continued from page 6)*

There has been some progress on the Land Bank and Trust Fund. There is now \$300,000 in the Trust Fund, thanks to contributions from the City's general fund. Several properties have been added to the Land Bank. In some cases, these are properties where affordable housing can be built. In other cases, any proceeds from the sale of these properties can be transferred to the Trust Fund.

When the Trust Fund and Land Bank were first created, the ordinance called for the appointment of a Citizen's Advisory Committee representing various interested parties (realtors, Housing Authority, bankers, etc.). The Advisory Committee has been appointed, and there has been one meeting. Before the property in the Land Bank can be used or any funds from the Trust Fund disbursed, the committee will have to develop a set of rules and regulations.

It was clear from the staff report that addressing a deficit of 4,700 units is going to require a proactive stance on the part of the City.

Education Committee *(Continued from page 5)*

Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in the public school curriculum and (2) the entrance of for-profit virtual charter schools as a school choice option in the public education system. We undertook a mini study. Now, we are ready to have a conversation with you about these issues in a unit meeting scheduled on Monday, November 17, 9-11 a.m., Good Samaritan Social Center Conference Room. In addition we will be reviewing our current position to determine if it needs to be updated.

You are invited to become part of the conversation. A continental breakfast will start off the program. Reservations are not required, but we want you to attend. Unit meetings are special League meetings where members join together in conversation to learn about issues. They are much more informal than Lunch with a Leader meetings. This is your opportunity to learn and to share your ideas.

Education Series: Erika Graf-Webster and I met with Fred Martino, Director of Content, KRWG Public Media, to explore possibilities for continuing our collaboration with KRWG and to present League program issues that are of community interest. From among the possibilities discussed, Mr. Martino proposed

an education series that would be aired on KRWG-TV on Fronteras, a 30 minute program scheduled on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., and repeated on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. The plan is to start the series in January 2015; however, in anticipation of the upcoming 2014 General Election, the first program about teacher evaluation was aired on Thursday, October 23.

KRWG has started a new feature, Local Viewpoints, which posts commentary or op-eds about issues. Google KRWG Local Viewpoints to get directly to the web site. The League has had several of its recent commentaries about education posted to that site.

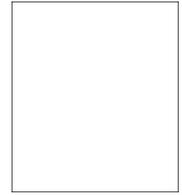
November 2





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



FIRST CLASS



0

Membership Application

After November 1 - \$30 for Individual;
 \$15 for each additional household member
 Annually: \$60 Individual; \$30 Second
 Household; \$30 Students

Date: _____
 Name: _____
 2nd Household: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Email: _____
 Telephone: _____

Contributions:
 _____ League of Women Voters Education
 Fund (Tax Deductible)
 _____ Contribute to LWV of Greater Las
 Cruces (Not tax deductible)

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

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

November 2014
In This Issue

Organ Mountain—Desert Peaks	1-2
Board Highlights	2
President's Message	3
Look Back: Scott Krahling	4
League News	5
Voter Services	
Education Committee	
Observer Report	6-7
Ratepayer Advisory Committee	
South Central Solid Waste Authority	
Las Cruces City Council Work Session	

November 17, 2014 - 9 a.m.
UNIT MEETING - Education Update
Education Committee
LWV of Greater Las Cruces

Good Samaritan Social Center
 Conference Room near Main Auditorium