

**LWV**

the VOTER

*League of Women Voters of  
Greater Las Cruces*

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## **ORIENTATION BRUNCH FOR NEW LWVGLC MEMBERS – OCTOBER 28**

Sue Lashley, Membership Chairman

New members of LWVGLC are invited to an Orientation Brunch - an introduction, some history and some of our immediate goals. The Brunch will be held **October 28, from 10:30 to 12:00**, at the home of Gwen Hanson, our past president. Her address is **1219 Dry Creek Place**, in the Sonoma Ranch subdivision of Las Cruces. "Older" members are also welcome, but be sure to let Gwen know you are going by calling: [575 556 9251](tel:5755569251). It is a chance for the current members to get to know our newest members, and for the new members to get acquainted with each other. It will be time well spent!

## **NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> DINNER WITH A LEADER**

Location: Good Samaritan. Social time 5:00-5:20. Dinner begins at 5:20.

**REAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ABORTION: the way we win legislative fights in New Mexico** will feature *Updates and Debriefs on the New Mexico Legislature in 2017*, with a focus on key strategies that win, and the ways that grassroots work. This conversation will dig into the details of the most recent Legislative Session, how we have successfully stopped bad bills and furthered proactive reproductive health care legislation, through the power of grassroots support and story telling.

**Speakers:** Marshall Martinez and Julianna Koob

Marshall Martinez is a Native New Mexican Community Organizer who has been working in Social Justice for 16 years. As the Public Affairs Director he works with a staff of Planned Parenthood organizers across the state to lift up and amplify the voices of Planned Parenthood Supporters to impact policy and culture around Reproductive Health Care including abortion. Marshall lives in Albuquerque, with his boyfriend Rudy and his special needs rabbit - Demeter.

Julianna Koob is a Legislative Advocate for Planned Parenthood and the ACLU. She has fought to advance the rights of women and children for more than 25 years, beginning as a domestic violence shelter crisis advocate and later becoming a legislative advocate fighting for the rights of girls and women to make their own healthcare decisions, to receive equal pay, and to have access to abortion without barriers.

Julianna is particularly proud of her work to pass legislation increasing equity for girls in school sports programs, requiring equitable pay for women, and increasing services for victims of sexual assault. She is also proud to have worked within a coalition to defeat multiple pieces of legislation and a city ballot measure attempting to restrict access to abortion.

She has a Master's degree in Social Work and a Law degree, but credits survivors of domestic and sexual violence and women of color led organizations with the bulk of her education on women's rights and systems change.

**Background:** The Reproductive Rights Public Leadership Grant is sponsoring these speakers. Diane Goldfarb, member of the LWV Board, is a director. The grant was a "boost stipend" for LWVNM obtained through a larger grant to the NM Coalition for Choice. Scope of Work for the grant includes:

1. Ongoing advocacy including during and after the legislative session.
2. Statewide educational programs—including speaking engagements to all local chapters.
3. Advocacy on Health Care to protect the Affordable Health Care Act in NM

## ***MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT***

Greetings LWVGLC,

Autumn used to be bittersweet for me when I lived in the Northwest. I loved the crisp cool mornings, the early frosts, and the rich golds and reds of the leaves as they readied themselves for dying. Since I moved to Las Cruces, I find Fall is not bittersweet for me at all and I can enjoy my favorite season without dreading the coming of a cold, long, dark, snowy winter. Rather than going into my usual hibernation mode, I find myself having more energy now that the heat of the summer isn't sapping it and I am ready to use that energy to come up with a strategy for us to increase voter turnout.



A 9 percent voter turnout rate for local elections is not acceptable. How can we expect democracy to work if over 90 percent of the citizens do not have a voice? I am hoping that you will consider how you can help us to reverse that rate. Many voters have no idea that we provide voter information or where to find it.

**My goal is to have every voter in Greater Las Cruces know the [www.lwvglc.org](http://www.lwvglc.org) link by heart and the information we provide.**

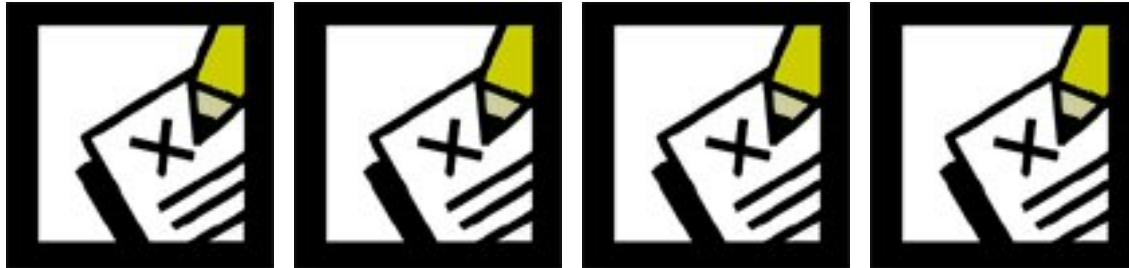
Dale and Vicki are doing a tremendous job with Voter Services. We have regular voter registration drives, we publish the Voter Guide, and Who's Who. We offer candidate forums. Erika and her team are

working nonstop trying to get youth engaged in democracy. **JUST THINK WHAT WE COULD ACCOMPLISH** If we got all 80 plus members to commit to do something to increase voter turnout.

I need people to work on marketing. People who are willing to make fliers advertising our website, people who are willing to put them up, people who are willing to help with social media, write letters, put ads in church bulletins (I'm just brainstorming here). I need people who are creative, and who have ideas about what we can do and who are willing to take the lead. Please let me know if you are willing to help.

Thank You,  
Kim Sorensen, President

***LAST DAY TO VOTE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTION IS NOVEMBER 7 !!!***



## ***VOTER SERVICES REPORT***

By Dale Yeo and Vicki Simons

### **Voter Registration**

On October 6 and 7 LWV/GLC registered voters at the Branigan Library prior to the Oct. 10 registration deadline for the city election, Nov. 7. Helping with registration were Lizz Taylor, Sadie Valverde, Gale Olmstead, Martha Duran, Marcia Anderson and Mary Ellen Knapp. Many thanks to these League members. While we did register a few voters, we also received requests for membership forms from several interested women and received many thanks for what we do from library visitors.

### **Forums and Voters Guide**

KRWG and LWVGLC joint forums have been very successful. They were rebroadcast on multiple platforms. If you wish to see the rebroadcast of the forums, they can be found on the KRWG website <[www.krwg.org](http://www.krwg.org)>.

The Voters Guide was published on Friday, October 27th with all candidates participating. It can be found on our website, either linked on the front page or archived in the Voter Information section. We planned for an overrun of 2,000 copies and put approximately five hundred each in the most popular and accessible places: the Las Cruces City Hall, Branigan Library and The Doña

Ana Government Building. The other five hundred we placed wherever seemed appropriate around the area. Café translated the Voters Guide into Spanish to distribute and also volunteered to help distribute some of English versions.



## **ALERT FROM 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

Marjorie Burr, Chair of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, says the Committee is awaiting firm dates for Proclamations from the City Council and the County Commission. These will be in December, when we want League members to turn out in big numbers.

Readers should be on the lookout for an email telling the specific date and time.

## **TREASURER'S TALK**

Here it is – already – our fiscal year is half over. So it's appropriate to provide you with a **Mid-Year Treasurer's Report**. As with the **First Quarter Report**, it's all **\$\$ and Sense**.

Total Revenues (not including meal receipts) = \$5,325, including \$4,260 from dues, \$765 in donations to the Operating Fund and \$300 to the newly budgeted Anniversary Celebration Fund. An additional \$380 has been donated to the LWV Education Fund that is administered by LWV's national office and is not part of our General Fund Budget.

Total Expenditures (not including meal payments to Good Sam) = \$1,247.15  
Bank Balance = \$8,312.82

Anticipated Budget Revenues (not including meal receipts) = \$7,296.97

Anticipated Budgeted Expenditures (not including meal payments to Good Sam) = \$7,228

### **NOTES:**

- All data reported above were as of 10/17/17
- If anticipated revenue comes in short, we will have difficulties funding the requirements of the activities we have committed ourselves to, and the public has come to depend on. UNLESS we do one of more of these
  - increase membership
  - increase donations to the Operating Fund
  - conduct successful fundraisers

- find more efficient (lower costs) methods of providing our services.  
*When old paradigms no longer work, we need to employ new strategies to accomplish our goals*
- Last month I challenged everyone to recruit new members. I committed to baking my family-famous cookies for the November dinner meeting IF ten (10) new members or delinquent members were paid up by the end of October. I thank those who accepted the challenge. To date you are VERY close to meeting that challenge. BUT, at this writing, we're a bit shy of the required 10. But there's still time, so make that invite to the person you've been thinking about inviting for several weeks – perhaps months.
- Lastly, I want to thank fellow board and all LWVGLC members: it's been my pleasure to serve for a bit over a year, and welcome William Little as our new treasurer. I'm confident the financial records of our League are being passed to competent and caring hands. Best wishes, William. If you have questions, I'm only a click away.

## ***THE OBSERVERS' POST***

OBSERVER REPORT by David Neal

Deming, New Mexico City Council, October 9, 2017

Type of meeting: Regular monthly meeting

Members absent: None Total number of Board members: 5

Council voted to approve a 1.183 acre subdivision from a 45 acre tract. No mention why this was requested.

Public Forum held – speakers limited to three minutes.

Resolution passed granting Corre Caminos bus surface \$60,000. No rep from bus company present to justify grant.

Deming has a Mayor/Council type of government. However, the city clerk has been given title of City Administer to run city without such designation appearing in city ordinances. Mayor Benny Jasso regularly abdicates mayoral duties to City Clerk Aaron Sera, in order to move business forward.

All Proclamations and Resolutions passed unanimously—no dissenting votes.

OBSERVER REPORT by Mary Ellen Knapp

Las Cruces, New Mexico City Council

Regular Meeting October 16, 2017

Mayor and all members of the City Council were present.

Agenda items of particular interest were:

APPROVED - Addition of an Assistant City Attorney and a Legal Assistant to support enforcement of Misdemeanor Crimes in Municipal Court.

APPROVED – Decrease of Las Cruces International Airport’s Land Lease Rate to equal current rates at similar airport and increase development at our airport.

TABLED TO NOVEMBER 6, 2017 – Authorize sale of property at 201 N. Main (formerly known as the Camunez Building) to Las Cruces Community Partners.

Concern was expressed about the agreement needing language to prevent the building’s being torn down, to ensure integrity of the building’s exterior is maintained, and to protect access to La Placita. Speakers commented that this building is not listed on the National or State Historical Registries and has no “socially redeeming character.”

A Development Code, effective last June, to preserve historic nature of buildings may cover these issues. A motion was passed to Table voting on this sale to the November 6 meeting after review of the Development Code.

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### **The League of Women Voters of**

#### **Greater Las Cruces**

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