

the VOTER

November 2018
Volume 50, Issue 5

LWV LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
of Greater Las Cruces

INSIDE

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Upcoming Events | 2 | Democracy Event | 4 |
| Legislative Issues | 2 | City Survey | 6 |
| New Member News | 2 | Book Club | 7 |
| Observer Reports | 3 | Treasurer's Report | 9 |

VEEP of League to Address LWVGLC

Richard (Dick) Mason, Vice President of League of Women Voters of New Mexico and co-chair of their action committee, will speak to us at our November 12th luncheon meeting.

His topic is "Preparing League Members for the 2019 Legislative Session." See the list of priorities decided upon by LWVNM on page 2.



Dick Mason

He has been active in advocacy work since 1968 and has been a member of the League of Women Voters since 1994. After moving to New Mexico in 2004, Dick became a Board Member of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico and is now Vice President, and he is co-Chair of their Action Committee. In addition, he is the LWVNM representative on the Steering Committee of Health Care for All New Mexicans. Dick is also on the Executive Committee of the New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils and on the Board of Health Action New Mexico, where he serves as the chair of the Policy Committee.

SAVE THE DATE

Nov. 12 Lunch Meeting
11:30 am–12:30 pm
Good Samaritan Social Center
3011 Buena Vida

President's Message

Greetings Members!

Forums done, Voters Guide out, and now Countdown to Nov. 6! Doña Ana County is setting records for voter turnout. Yay us!! LWVGLC has been working with the Election Advisory Council on registering voters. September 25th was National Voter Registration Day, so we showed up in force at NMSU to register students. On October 9th, which was the last day to register and the first day you could vote in this election, GLC participated in "Celebration of Democracy in Dona Ana County." This was Erika's brain child and it was a huge success! Over 200 high school students were bused to the County Government Building where they were given a tour, played games, and listened and talked with local politicians. VRA's registered students and those who were ready got to cast their ballot.



Kim Sorensen

October's Dinner with a Speaker was so informative that we kept Dr. Peach (retired NMSU Economics Professor) past our 7 pm deadline with our many questions. We need to have him back!! You can read a summary of points made by Dr. Peach in this newsletter on page 4.

Unit Meeting November 8th

All members are invited to a meeting to identify legislative priorities to be presented to the legislators at the annual Legislative Dinner on Dec. 10. The meeting will be held at the Branigan Library Roadrunner Room from 10 a.m.-noon. November 8th. We need your input so please try to come!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 1: KRWG TV Candidate Forums: 7 p.m.,
Public Lands Commissioner followed by
DAC Sheriff
- Nov. 1: LWVGLC Board Meeting, 10 a.m.-noon,
Branigan Library Roadrunner Rm.
- Nov. 6: Election Day
- Nov. 10: New Member Orientation, 10 a.m.-noon,
4426 Levante Dr.
- Nov. 12: LWVGLC Lunch Mtg., 11:30 a.m., Good
Sam's Social Center, Dick Mason LWVNM
- Nov. 29: Book Club – *“Political Tribes: Group
Instinct and the Fate of Nations”* by Amy
Chua; Host - Marjorie Burr

50th Anniversary Celebratory Tea Scheduled

On February 23, 1969, the members of the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces celebrated our official designation as a Local League with a celebratory “coffee.” Now, 50 years later, we will celebrate with a “high tea.” This event will be the grand finale of our 50th Anniversary activities.

DATE: Sat., Feb. 23, 2019

PLACE: Double Eagle
Restaurant, Mesilla.

Gwen Hanson and the
50th Anniversary Committee are planning a
memorable occasion. Mark the date on your 2019
calendar as soon as you set it up. Details will
follow.



New Member Orientation

We welcome new members! This event will help you get to know the organization and its processes. Here are the details:

New Member Orientation, Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018 from 10 a.m. to noon. Refreshments will be served. Hosted by Maryellen Kebbel and Caprice Benoit, Membership Co-Chairs. At the home of Maryellen Kebbel, 4426 Levante Dr. All new members and persons interested in learning about the League are invited. Email Maryellen to **RSVP** and to get directions: Maryellen.kebbel@gmail.com.

LWVNM Legislative Issues

LWVNM Legislative Priorities for the 2019 session of the New Mexico Legislature:

- Tax Reform & Funding—tax reform and funding proposals are going to be a major focus of the 2019 session. Most funding proposals being discussed are ones the League has supported in the past.
- Automatic Voter Registration and other voter & election legislation.
- Iowa Redistricting Model—The LWV of Iowa was instrumental in passing this in Iowa in the 1970s.
- Assuming the State Ethics Commission ballot question passes, the legislature will have to pass enabling legislation. We need to assure that legislature ensures an effective Commission.
- Making a woman's right to choose New Mexico law—Present New Mexico law makes obtaining an abortion a criminal offense. This has not been enforced because of Roe v Wade. It is time to get this archaic law out of New Mexico statutes.

Join us November 12th to learn more about all these issues and to meet Dick Mason!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER LAS CRUCES BOARD:

Kim Sorenson – President

Cindy Murrell – Vice President, Events & Speakers

Ashley Beyer – Secretary

William Little – Treasurer

Vicki Simons & Dale Yeo – Voter Services

MaryEllen Kebbel & Caprice Benoit – Membership
Co-Directors

Jane Asche & Judith LaPointe – Nominating
Committee

Bonnie Votaw & Jo Galván Nash – Editors, the Voter

P.O. Box 15142 • Las Cruces, NM 88004

575.524.VOTE (8683)

www.lwvglc.org



OBSERVER REPORTS

Doña Ana County Commission, Regular Meeting

Oct. 23, 2018 • All Commissioners present

Observer: Jo Galván Nash

PRESENTATION — The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) proclaimed November as Diabetes Awareness Month in the county, as requested by Commissioner Ramón Gonzalez.

APPROVED — The agenda for the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting consisted primarily of consent agenda items (items that are voted on with one motion). Among the items approved were:

- Utilization of a state pricing agreement for San Bar Construction Corporation to provide striping on county roads; when roads get chip-sealed, they will also be considered for striping. Most of the roads in question are in the village of Doña Ana and in the Talavera area. (5 ayes)
- A budget revision and Resolution to increase the salary budget of \$598,398 based on approved wage changes to collective bargaining agreements with employees such as detention workers and members of several unions. (5 ayes)
- Purchase of 3.35 acres for the construction of the Hatch Flood Control Dam. (5 ayes)

APPROVED — The BOCC approved a budget revision and a Resolution accepting funds from a \$5,000 Drug Policy Alliance grant. Funds will help develop the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) steering committee and the committee's planning efforts. The grant will be spent with assistance from the Sheriff's Department, Las Cruces Police Department, District Attorney's Office, and NMSU Crimson Research. Commissioner Billy Garrett asked that a follow-up presentation be made to the BOCC in the future (5 ayes).

Just prior to adjournment, BOCC Chairman Ben Rawson encouraged everyone to vote early.

President's Message (cont.)

Wanted: Members to Participate in the Following Committees!

Development Committee: This is a new committee. We need more funds to not only meet the rising printing costs but to also expand our scope to accomplish more. We want to put on more forums, and work on our priorities of Youth Engagement and Education.

Youth Engagement: This committee has been around for a while. We are collaborating on a Civic Engagement Project with the LCPS and working on the Voter Impediments study. There is much to be done.

Education: We have identified advocating for increased funding for education as a priority in 2019. We need members to create and implement a plan of action.

Observer Corp: We still need people to volunteer to observe at various meetings.

Complete Count Committee: This is a potentially new committee to get ready for the Census. New Mexico relies on an accurate count for federal funding.

Please let me know if you would like to participate in any of these very important committees! By the way, thanks for all you do. I find it a challenge to keep up with you all.

With Kind Regards,
Kim Sorensen

Economic Insights

In case you missed the League's October dinner meeting, we're providing a summary of Dr. Jim Peach's talk on the economy. Thank you to Eileen Van Wie for taking such copious notes!

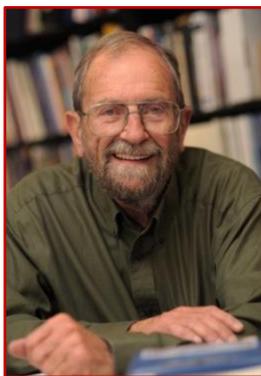
Dr. Peach described the U.S. economy as doing well. Gross Domestic Product is up 4.2% this year, the labor force rate decreased, and the Federal Reserve is raising interest rates. Interestingly, "Right to Work" and minimum wage have proven to have no effect on state economic growth. Even though unemployment is low, Dr. Peach stated that corporations are not having difficulty hiring workers, therefore, wages are not going up. In fact, real wages have been stagnant for 40 years.

New Mexico added 16,000 jobs last year. Oil Production on the Permian Basin is going crazy. For example, 60 million barrels of oil were produced in 2008, 171 million in 2017, and it's predicted that between 230 and 240 million barrels will

be produced this year. Carlsbad is the hottest oil producer in the world right now. That city is booming and yet, the state still ranks at the bottom on poverty

(40% child poverty rate here in DAC). Besides ranking at the bottom in education and poverty, New Mexico is the "least wired" (internet access) state.

Other interesting points made by Dr. Peach include: the County has about 70,000 workers with White Sands, NMSU and LCPS being the largest employers; the gas tax has not been raised in 18 years; New Mexico has no economic development plan.



Celebrating Democracy in DAC

Engaging High School Students

Sometimes when you have an idea that you really believe in, and you're pushy about it, it can be made to happen. That is how this Celebrating Democracy event came about, and how our League played a major role in creating a new event that benefited the community and its youth.

One of the things we have done in our League's Youth Engagement Committee is to try to determine why young people rarely vote. One of the most common answers is "well, I registered, but the election was way later, and I just forgot." What can be done about that? Well, there is this one magic day in New Mexico before each election on which people can register to vote and actually vote on the same day – e.g., it is the last day of voter registration and the first day of early voting.



Bulletin Photo: Mike Cook

Panel discussion about democracy – from L to R: Alexa Tovar, NMSU student and discussion leader; Panelists (all local elected officials): Dr. Maria Flores, School Board; Yvonne Flores, City Councilor; Rick Little, NM state Representative; Ramon Gonzales, Otero County Commissioner

This year, that day was October 9. So, my proposal, first to Scott Krahling, then-County Clerk, and then to the Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) through our (the League's) collaboration project – The Civic Engagement Project – was "let's make a big deal out of this day, and let's bring the young people in to register and to vote." There was a positive response from both Scott and LCPS.

The proposal was then taken to the Doña Ana Elections Advisory Council (EAC). This council is a non-partisan volunteer group with the purpose of promoting the community's understanding and involvement in activities related to the elections, under the aegis of the County Clerk's office. The League has been a member of this Council since its inception. The EAC approved the idea, and an October 9 Event Planning Committee was formed, with Barb Records (of the Indivisible organization) and me as co-chairs.

— continued on page 5

Celebrating Democracy (cont.)

It quickly became apparent that quite a few organizations were interested in participating in this event and helping to make it a reality. The following groups were represented on the October 9 Planning Committee: County Clerk's office, League of Women Voters, LCPS, ASNMSU (the NMSU student government), Indivisible, NMSU Youth Elections Advisory Council, Democratic Party of Doña Ana County, Doña Ana Republican Party, and various individual EAC members who represented themselves as voters.

The event actually happened on October 9, with approximately 300 students from six area high schools (Centennial, Oñate, Mayfield, Las Cruces, Arrowhead Park and Rio Grande Prep) and their teachers in attendance. The Planning Committee members had been very energetic and committed and accomplished a tremendous amount of work to make it all happen. Some of the event activities were:

- Arrangement for and setup of two large tents, 40 tables and chairs – done Lindsey Bachman, County Clerk's Office
- Several Voter Registration Agents to register new voters and 40 volunteers to work with the students and guests – arranged by Stewart Oberman, through his Sign-Up Genius, tool
- Welcome Address by Ben Rawson, Chair of the County Commission
- Tours of the County building, with demonstration of actual voting – headed by Ashley Beyer, our LWVGLC Secretary
- Panel session about the meaning of democracy – moderated by NMSU graduate student Alexa Tovar with participation by several local legislators – see photo above
- “Family Feud” game about civics and government topics – developed and conducted by Matthew Madrid of ASNMSU, with assistance by LCPS teachers
- Other educational games related to politics & government – developed and conducted by teachers
- Just fun games, such as “corn toss” – overseen by LCPS teachers
- Food & Snacks — some donated items obtained by Cheryl Young, local Republican Party Secretary
- Two Food Trucks (could have used 4!) – arranged by Lindsey Bachman of the Clerk's Office
- Water – donation by Sonics, arranged by Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson, LCPS
- Prizes – donated by various businesses (arranged by Cheryl Young) and NMSU
- Approximately 20 candidates attended, including Xochitl Torres Small, US House of Representatives candidate, who mingled with the students and answered their questions – thanks to Karena Oberman for sending out all the invitations.



The commitment to this event and the amount of work done for it by the teachers and by the County Clerk's Office was truly amazing. The motivation by 50-to-60 individuals to make the event happen was inspiring. It's due to all these wonderful people that the event was a big success! It was well covered by the local media, including The Bulletin, the Las Cruces Sun-News, and KRWG (see the websites of these media for more detail).

The Planning Committee met for a debrief session on October 19. The chief participants agreed that we would try to make this an annual event. The teachers reported that the students all enjoyed the event – more than one commented that “this made me understand for the first time how really important it is to vote.” There were lessons learned for the future and everyone was happy with and proud of the event.

— Erika Graf-Webster

City Survey Kicks-Off in November

We need your input!

The City of Las Cruces is currently updating its Comprehensive Plan, called Elevate Las Cruces. This document helps the City identify priorities for future growth and related improvements over the next 20 years that can make Las Cruces an even better place to live, work, and play.

As a resident, property owner, or business owner, the City takes your views very seriously. Please take some time to answer this survey and help guide future decisions related to land development, infrastructure, transportation, economic development, and housing. The survey will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

The survey will remain open until Friday, November 16, 2018. Thank you for your help! Go to this address to participate in the online survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ElevateLC-English>

— Chris Little

CITY OF LAS CRUCES INFORMATION

More Details on the Survey from the City of Las Cruces Website

Elevate Las Cruces

The City of Las Cruces is in the process of updating its comprehensive plan. This plan, called "Elevate Las Cruces," is being worked on in a partnership with Halff Associates. To see a quick overview of the project, meet the people involved in the planning process, and take an online survey to help in the planning, visit elevatelascruces.com

SURVEY WEBSITE:

<http://elevatelascruces.com/news/take-our-online-survey>

In 2018, City Council provided City staff with the resources to team up with Halff Associates for a complete update to the comprehensive plan, which was only partially updated in 2013 and contains policies from 1999.

The comprehensive plan will assess a variety of community characteristics, including land use, transportation, community infrastructure, economic development, housing, parks, and community design. For each of these elements, the comprehensive plan will answer questions such as:

What do we want the future of Las Cruces to look like?

Kick-Off Workshops Provide More Information

<http://elevatelascruces.com/news/kick-off-public-workshops-november-6-7-and-9>

What policy changes are needed to achieve the future vision?

There are several opportunities for citizens to be involved, including online surveys, public workshops, and a design charrette. Public and stakeholder engagement help to answer these questions and form the overall vision for the plan. A Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) made up of key Las Cruces stakeholders has been created to serve as a sounding board throughout the plan process. There will also be several opportunities for citizens to be involved, including online surveys, public workshops, and a design charrette.

The resulting comprehensive plan will include strategies and policies that help the Mayor, City Councilors, City staff and the Planning & Zoning Commission as they make development decisions over the next 20 years.

The comprehensive plan is expected to be completed by December 2019.

[Elevate Las Cruces](http://elevatelascruces.com)

Candidate Books for LWVGLC Book Club – September 2018

| Status | Book |
|---|---|
| Selected for November 29 at Marjorie's | <p><i>Political Tribes: Group Instinct and the Fate of Nations</i> by Amy Chua</p> <p>The bestselling author of <i>Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother</i>, Yale Law School Professor Amy Chua offers a bold new prescription for reversing our foreign policy failures and overcoming our destructive political tribalism at home. Humans are tribal. We need to belong to groups. In many parts of the world, the group identities that matter most – the ones that people will kill and die for – are ethnic, religious, sectarian, or clan-based. But because America tends to see the world in terms of nation-states – we are often spectacularly blind to the power of tribal politics. This blindness has undermined American foreign policy.</p> |
| December | <p>We are taking December off!</p> |
| Selected for January 24, 2019 at Erika's | <p><i>World Class – How to Build a 21st Century School System</i> published by The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (Part of the UN, I think)</p> <p>Author looks at all the high-performance education systems in the world, and how what they do right can help in the US.</p> <p>Available to read for free here: https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/world-class_9789264300002-en#page1</p> |
| New 5-6-19 | <p><i>War on Peace: The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence</i> by Ronan Farrow.</p> <p>US foreign policy is undergoing a dire transformation, forever changing America's place in the world. Institutions of diplomacy and development are bleeding out after deep budget cuts; the diplomats who make America's deals and protect its citizens around the world are walking out in droves. Offices across the State Department sit empty. We're becoming a nation that shoots first and asks questions later.</p> |
| New 6-23-19 | <p><i>Everybody Lies: Big Data, New Data, and What the Internet Can Tell Us About Who We Really Are</i> by Seth Stephens-Davidowitz (Paperback)</p> <p>Offers fascinating, surprising, and sometimes laugh-out-loud insights into everything from economics to ethics to sports to race to sex, gender and more, all drawn from the world of big data. What percentage of white voters didn't vote for Barack Obama because he's black? Does where you go to school effect how successful you are in life? Do parents secretly favor boy children over girls? Do violent films affect the crime rate? Can you beat the stock market? Investigating these questions and a host of others, Seth Stephens-Davidowitz offers revelations that can help us understand ourselves and our lives better.</p> |
| New 6-23-19 | <p><i>The World as It Is: A Memoir of the Obama White House</i> by Ben Rhodes</p> <p>"The closest view of Obama we're likely to get until he publishes his own memoir."</p> <p>For nearly 10 years, Ben Rhodes saw almost everything that happened at the center of the Obama administration—first as a speechwriter, then as deputy national security advisor, and finally as a multipurpose aide and close collaborator. Rhodes shows what it was like to be there—from the early days of the Obama campaign to the final hours of the presidency.</p> |
| New 7-14-19 | <p><i>Anna, Age Eight: The Data-Driven Prevention of Childhood Trauma and Maltreatment</i> by Katherine Ortega Courtney PhD (Author), Dominic Cappello (Author)</p> <p>We are in the midst of an epidemic of childhood trauma with far-reaching effects that the public, media and lawmakers would prefer not to see. With research showing child maltreatment is substantiated for one in eight children in the US. The book suggests a series of shockingly modest yet strategic reforms, changes that can ensure that the future systems of protection in every community are better at identifying their own shortcomings and fixing them. The proven strategies proposed have the power to heal families, illustrating how we can all take courageous and compassionate steps toward designing child-friendly, trauma-free communities.</p> |

| Status | Book |
|----------------|--|
| New 9-3-19 | <i>Our Towns - A 100,000 mile Journey Into the Heart of America</i> by James & Deborah Fallows A vivid, surprising portrait of the civic and economic reinvention taking place in America, town by town and generally out of view of the national media. A realistically positive and provocative view of the country between its coasts. |
| New 9-10-19 | <i>The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure</i> By Greg Lukianoff & Jonathan Haidt Something is going wrong on many college campuses in the last few years. Rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide are rising. Speakers are shouted down. Students and professors say they are walking on eggshells and afraid to speak honestly. How did this happen? |
| New 9-28-19 | <i>Fear: Trump in the White House</i> by Bob Woodward With authoritative reporting honed through eight presidencies from Nixon to Obama, author Bob Woodward reveals in unprecedented detail the harrowing life inside President Donald Trump's White House and precisely how he makes decisions on major foreign and domestic policies. Woodward draws from hundreds of hours of interviews with firsthand sources, meeting notes, personal diaries, files and documents. The focus is on the explosive debates and the decision-making in the Oval Office, the Situation Room, Air Force One and the White House residence. |
| New 9-30-19 | <i>Identity: The Demand for Dignity and the Politics of Resentment</i> by Francis Fukuyama Demand for recognition of one's identity is a master concept that unifies much of what is going on in world politics today. The universal recognition on which liberal democracy is based has been increasingly challenged by narrower forms of recognition based on nation, religion, sect, race, ethnicity, or gender, which have resulted in anti-immigrant populism, the upsurge of politicized Islam, the fractious "identity liberalism" of college campuses, and the emergence of white nationalism. The demand for identity cannot be transcended; we must begin to shape identity in a way that supports rather than undermines democracy. |
| New 10-3-19 | <i>The Fifth Risk</i> by Michael Lewis What are the consequences if the people given control over our government have no idea how it works? Michael Lewis's brilliant narrative takes us into the engine rooms of a government under attack by its own leaders. In Agriculture the funding of vital programs like food stamps and school lunches is being slashed. The Commerce Department may not have enough staff to conduct the 2020 Census properly. Over at Energy, where international nuclear risk is managed, it's not clear there will be enough inspectors to track and locate black market uranium before terrorists do. Willful ignorance plays a role in these looming disasters. |
| New 10-3-19 | <i>Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger</i> by Rebecca Traister From Rebecca Traister, the <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author of <i>All the Single Ladies</i> comes a vital, incisive exploration into the transformative power of female anger and its ability to transcend into a political movement. The story of female fury and its cultural significance demonstrates the long history of bitter resentment that has enshrouded women's slow rise to political power in America, as well as the ways that anger is received when it comes from women as opposed to when it comes from men. |



