

the VOTER

January 2019
Volume 50, Issue 7

LWV LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
of Greater Las Cruces

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President's First 2019 Message

Happy New Year Everyone!

Legislative Dinner: This year's Dinner with the Legislators was very well attended (see photos). Seven state legislators including Micaela Lara Cadena, Raymundo Lara, Angelica Rubio, Joanne Ferrary, Willie Madrid, Jeff Steinborn and Bill Soules attended the Dinner with the Legislators event on December 10. Over 70 members and guests attended. The legislators were given a handout prior to the program outlining the League's priorities. They were then given the opportunity to speak about their priorities (much of which aligned with ours) and then responded to questions from the audience.

Program Planning Meeting: It's time to start thinking about the Program Planning Meeting coming up February 11. Erika Graf-Webster is hosting a review of our positions at her house January 9th at 2 pm at 580 Canyon Point Rd. Please try to attend. Some of the positions have not been reviewed for a number of years. We need to determine which ones need updated, etc. In particular, the County Government and Municipal Elections Positions need to be reviewed, but there may be more.

Also, please let me know if you would like to submit a proposal for a local or state study. You must submit a proposal at the Program Planning Meeting. It will be voted on by the members at the Annual Meeting in April.



Kim Sorensen

Dinner with a Leader: Consensus Meeting: LWVNM board member Barbara Calef, will conduct a consensus meeting on the Transfer of Public Land State Study. Each local must approve the consensus questions for it to become a state position. This is a good opportunity for members to learn how the League goes about conducting a study to becoming a position.

Lunch for the Refugees: Finally, thank you for the offers of help to provide lunch to the refugees December 7th. Four of us made over 100 burritos. They were a huge success. We served about 60 people and I think there were only 10 burritos left over. I know many of you are volunteering at local churches and donating money to help the refugees. Thank you.

With Kind Regards, Kim



It was standing-room-only for the annual Legislative dinner; seven lawmakers attended.



Rep. Joanne Ferrary

Legislators to Tackle Wide Range of Important Issues

Local Legislators have a number of issues on their plates as they prepare for the upcoming legislative session. During the recent League dinner, some of the topics mentioned included additional funding for education, sustainable energy, voting rights and criminal justice reform. Many bills are being submitted early, prior to the session which begins Jan. 15. Senator Bill Soules explained that there will be several bills that will be on a fast-track. Essentially, these are the bills that received do-pass votes from both the House and Senate during a previous session but were then vetoed by Governor Martinez. Those bills will not have to go through additional Committee reviews this time around. The GLC priorities are listed on page 3 for your information.



Above: Rep. Angelica Rubio (standing) plans to ride her bicycle from Las Cruces to Santa Fe. Listening on are, left to right, Sen. Bill Soules, Rep. Ray Lara, Rep. Joanne Ferrary and Sen. Jeff Steinborn. Below: Rep. Willie Madrid and Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena also outlined their interests and are ready to address the needs of New Mexicans.



SAVE THE DATE

Feb. 23

50th Anniversary High Tea

2:00-5:00 p.m.

Double Eagle de Mesilla

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- Jan. 3: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., GLC Board Meeting, Branigan Library Board Room
- Jan. 9: 2:00 p.m., Review of GLC Positions, Erika Graf Webster's house, 580 Canyon Point Rd.
- Jan. 14: 5:00-7:00 p.m., Dinner with Speaker – Barbara Calef Consensus Meeting; Transfer of Public Lands State Study, Good Sam's
- Jan. 15: 12:00 p.m., NM Legislative Session Begins
- Jan. 19: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., LWVNM Board Meeting, location TBA
- Jan. 24: 2:00-4:00 p.m., Book Club, Erika's House, 580 Canyon Point Rd.

FEBRUARY

- Feb. 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m., LWVNM Legislative Reception, Garrett's Desert Inn, Santa Fe
- Feb. 7: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., League Day at the Legislature, State Capitol, Santa Fe
- Feb. 11: 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., GLC Program Planning Meeting, Good Sam's
- Feb. 23: 2:00-5:00 p.m., GLC 50th Anniversary High Tea, Double Eagle

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

League Day at the Legislature, February 6 and 7, 2019

League table at the Roundhouse all day - NEED VOLUNTEERS! Please contact Judy Williams at President@lwvnm.org.

Rooms are available at Garrett's Desert Inn for \$79 plus tax (free parking). 311 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87501 Call [\(505\) 982-1851](tel:(505)982-1851) and ask for the League of Women Voters block. The rooms will be held only until January 16, 2019.

Legislative reception, Location TBA, Wednesday, February 6, 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver will speak on voting rights priorities for the session.

League Day at the Legislature Thursday, February 7. 10:30 - noon, State Land Office, Morgan Hall, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail, across from Garrett's Desert Inn.

Welcome from Stephanie Garcia Richard, State Land Commissioner

Enabling Legislation for the State Ethics Commission - Former Representative Jim Dines, sponsor of constitutional amendment

Taxes and Funding for Essential Services - Amber Wallin, Deputy Director, NM Voices for Children

Meet with legislators as individuals or in groups.

League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County
P.O. Box 31547, Santa Fe, NM 87594-1547

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League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces Legislative Priorities 2019

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces collaborates with the League of Women Voters of New Mexico in promoting the 6 legislative priorities chosen by the LWVNM state board for the 2019 Legislative Session. In addition, the Greater Las Cruces chapter also supports increased funding for education and access to affordable health care as additional priorities

LWVNM Priorities:

Tax Reform & Funding: LWVNM believes that the tax system should be progressive and equitable. We support the following:

- Raise the personal income tax rate for high earners
- Repeal the tax breaks for capital gains income
- Repeal wasteful and ineffective tax breaks
- Require all out-of-state corporations to pay income tax on their profits in New Mexico

Voting Rights: We support Automatic Voter Registration/Same Day Voter Registration/Extend the Voter Registration Period.

Iowa Redistricting Model: We support redistricting using the Iowa Redistricting Model.

The State Ethics Commission: We support legislation that ensures an effective Commission.

Reproductive Rights: We support making a woman’s right to choose New Mexico law. Specifically, we support the repeal of the section of New Mexico Law that makes abortion a crime.

National Popular Vote NM: guarantees the U.S. presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia.

LWVGLC Priorities:

Education: LWVGLC supports increased funding for education, especially early childhood education. New Mexico must ensure that increases in funding reach classrooms. To that end, we support the following:

- Fill teacher vacancies statewide
- Improve pay for teachers and fund Continuing Professional Development
- Increase funding for early childhood education
- Reduce emphasis and expenditures for student standardized testing and replace with and fund appropriate assessment tools that measure learning.
- Designate funds to integrate social, emotional, and academic learning
- Designate funds that address multicultural equity

Access to Affordable Health Care: LWVGLC supports the passage of the Health Security Act, a solution to our growing health care crisis. Because of the continued attacks on the Affordable Care Act by the national administration, passage of the Health Security Act will provide stable access to health care for New Mexico residents. Its mission is to establish a publicly accountable health care system in New Mexico that guarantees comprehensive and affordable health care coverage, including preventive health care and freedom of choice of provider for all New Mexicans. Legislation based on this plan has been introduced several times as the Health Security Act and is continuing to gain credibility and support. To date, 34 New Mexico counties and municipalities have passed resolutions of support. Because the plan has financial and developmental benchmarks that must be met over the 3-year implementation period, it provides security for residents that it will not continue if found not feasible. We urge our legislators to support this legislation.



Las Cruces Utilities Board (LCU) • Work and Regular Sessions

Dec. 13, 2018

Observer: Susan Schmugge

The work session included a report to LCU from the chair of Utility Customer Advisory Group (UCAG). After its review of waste water rates, it had consensus that a raise in rates over a three-year period be approved. The LCU thanked the UCAG for its work.

All Board members present for the Regular session. Staff reported that the Payment Assistance Program continues to receive requests for funds and staff expects to deplete the fund during this heating season. Among the unanimous approvals for various contracts were resolutions approving rate reviews for solid waste and gas utilities. UCAG will begin its work and Stantec Consulting Services was hired to analyze rates and prepare PowerPoint presentations. Staff will be expected to provide in-house annual rate evaluations once reviews for all four utilities are completed.

Doña Ana County Commissioners • Regular Meeting

Dec. 11, 2018 • All 5 members present

Observer: Jo Galván Nash

This was the last regular meeting for three County Commissioners whose terms are ending: Ben Rawson, Billy Garrett and Kim Hakes. Many individuals offered their thanks for the Commissioners' service to the County and its citizens. The three also commented positively about their tenure.

Treasurer Eric Rodriguez reported that taxes levied in 2018 by mid-year was \$136,334,000, compared to the previous year in the same time period of \$126,168,000 – an increase of eight percent. He said among the reasons for the increase is a spike of 604 new parcels (homes) in the county and a small increase in the mill rates due to City general obligation bonds issued last August.

The County Triage Center may finally be used. County Health & Human Services Director Jamie Michael provided an update on the "Stepping Up Initiative" (SUI). Its purpose is to find alternative options for mental health patients who could otherwise be incarcerated. In 2017, 346 people were transported to Memorial Medical Center's emergency room for mental health evaluation. Michael said SUI could provide pre-arrest diversion alternatives (keeping people out of jail), pre-trial diversion options, and community re-entry assistance. SUI would benefit public safety, improve the quality of life for the mentally ill, and save tax dollars.

The Commission asked for a future report to explain how the Triage Center would be used and the potential costs associated with the program.

Regarding the budget, on a vote of 4-1 (Commissioner Rawson voting no), the Board approved salary increases for the Treasurer, Assessor, Sheriff, Probate Judge and Clerk. The increase was allowable via state legislation. The commission also approved salaries to hire six new firefighters and two new fire lieutenants so that two stations could be manned 24/7.

The Commission approved \$680,000 (Commissioner Gonzalez voting no) to buy a facility on Copper Loop near the county Detention Center. It will allow for more staff parking and for training facilities which, in turn, would relieve office overcrowding at the Detention Center.

The Commission went into closed session to conduct its mid-year performance evaluation of Manager Fernando Macias. After reconvening, the Board announced modifications to Macias' contract, including increasing his annual salary to \$180,000. The contract was approved 4-1 (Commissioner Rawson voting no).

• *Next Regular Commission Meeting: 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019, County Govt. Center*

Candidate Books for LWVGLC Book Club – November 2018

Status	Book
<p>Selected for January 24, 2019 at Erika's</p>	<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) Author looks at all the high-performance education systems in the world, and how what they do right can help in the US. Available to read for free here: https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/world-class_9789264300002-en#page1</p>
<p>New 5-6-18</p>	<p><i>War on Peace: The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence</i> by Ronan Farrow. 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>
<p>New 6-23-18</p>	<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) 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>
<p>New 6-23-18</p>	<p><i>The World as It Is: A Memoir of the Obama White House</i> by Ben Rhodes <i>"The closest view of Obama we're likely to get until he publishes his own memoir."</i> 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>
<p>New 7-14-18</p>	<p><i>Anna, Age Eight: The Data-Driven Prevention of Childhood Trauma and Maltreatment</i> by Katherine Ortega Courtney PhD (Author), Dominic Cappello (Author) 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>
<p>New 9-3-18</p>	<p><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.</p>
<p>New 9-10-18</p>	<p><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?</p>

Status	Book
<p>New 9-28-18</p>	<p><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.</p>
<p>New 9-30-18</p>	<p><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.</p>
<p>New 10-3-18</p>	<p><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.</p>
<p>New 10-3-18</p>	<p><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.</p>
<p>New 11-14-18</p>	<p><i>Dark Territory – the Secret History of Cyber War</i> by Fred Kaplan “An important, disturbing, and gripping history” (<i>Kirkus Reviews</i>), the never-before-told story of the computer scientists and the NSA, Pentagon, and White House policymakers who invent and employ cyber wars—where every country can be a major power player and every hacker a mass destroyer. “An eye-opening history of our government’s efforts to effectively manage our national security in the face of the largely open global communications network established by the World Wide Web...<i>Dark Territory</i> is a page-turner [and] consistently surprising” (<i>The New York Times</i>).</p>

Treasurer's Report

Provided by William Little, Treasurer

3 November 2018

League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

For 6 December 2018 Board Meeting

Activity since last Board Meeting:

Expenses:

ABC Printing: \$243.69

[Membership Handbook]

Consumer Cellular: \$ 19.32

[League cell phone]

TOTAL: \$263.01

Income: \$2,951.90 [Ed Fund reimbursement for Voters' Guide]

30 November 2018 Checkbook Balance: \$6,390.98.

Education Fund

Paid \$2,951.90 to Las Cruces Bulletin for 2918 Voter's Guide. Reimbursement received from Education Fund.

DISCUSSION

Currently, all monies in the PayPal account have been transferred to checking and are reflected in the bank balance shown above.