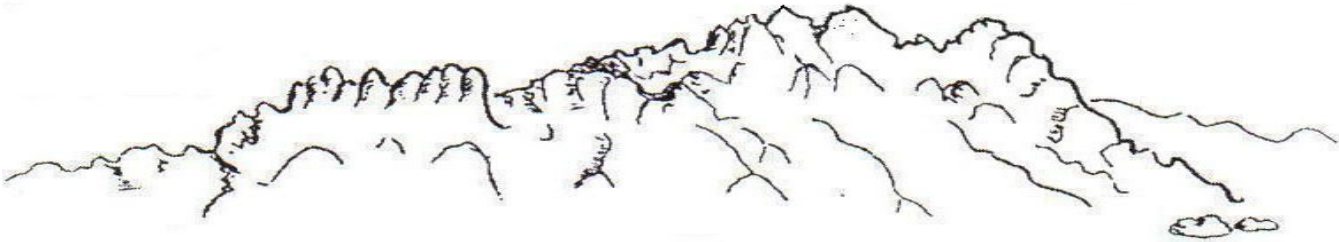


# The VOTER

League of Women Voters  
of Greater Las Cruces  
Las Cruces NM  
524-VOTE (8683)  
[http://lwvlascruces.  
home.comcast.net](http://lwvlascruces.home.comcast.net)  
April, 2009



## 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 18, 2009, 9 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church - 2000 S. Solano Dr.

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions . . . . . Cathy Mathews
2. Adoption of Business Meeting Rules
3. Appointment of Parliamentarian
4. Approval of the 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes . . . . . Nancy Phillips
5. Treasurer's Report . . . . . Pat Kratz
6. Report from the President . . . . . Cathy Mathews

#### Annual Meeting Business

- Adoption of the 2009-2010 Annual Budget . . . . . Pat Pedersen
- Adoption of the Nonpartisan Policy . . . . . Cathy Mathews
- Report of the Nominating Committee and Election . . . Sue Liefeld
- Proposed Program and Study Committee . . . . . Vicki Simons
  - Adoption of Current Statement of Positions
  - Adoption of Program for Study and Action (2009-2010)
  
- Identification of State Convention Delegates
- Identification of LWVUS Council Delegates
  
- Direction to the Board from Members

**Keynote Speaker:** Judge Lisa Schultz, Third Judicial District Court.

**Topic:** Children's Court: Helping to Heal the Community

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**Lunch:** \$11 - Catered by Carol Koenig's Celebrations

Please contact Vicki Simons, 522-4813, by **April 6** and indicate your choice of:

1. Cobb Salad with blue cheese dressing, tomato chile spread, crusty bread, dessert **OR**
2. Vegetarian Assorted Cheese sandwich with mustard dill sauce, fresh fruit compote, potato chips or fritos, dessert

**The VOTER**

Volume 38, Issue 11—April 2009  
Published Monthly

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

P.O. Box 8322  
Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322  
(505) 524-VOTE (8683)  
Web: <http://lwvlas Cruces.home.comcast.net>

**President**—Cathy Mathews

**Vice President**—Vicki Simons

**Secretary**—Nancy Phillips

**Treasurer**—Pat Kratz

**Director, Voter Service**  
(Vacant)

**Director, Membership**  
Bonnie Burn

**Nominating Committee**  
Sue Liefeld

**STUDY GROUPS**

**Behavioral Health Services**  
Becky Beckett  
Mickey Curtis

**Election Procedures and  
Voter Turnout**  
Marnie Leverett

**Metropolitan Court**  
Marjorie Burr

**ACTION COMMITTEE**  
Barbara Goedecke

**Archivist**—Barbara Myers  
**Historian**—Judith Scott

**Newsletter Editor**  
Bonnie Burn  
[burnb@comcast.net](mailto:burnb@comcast.net)

**Web Master**—Jim Leverett  
[marniej@comcast.net](mailto:marniej@comcast.net)

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

**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 whose wording is important to the minutes will be submitted in writing to the secretary.
- Adoption of recommended program items requires a majority of members present.
- Those members present at the Annual Meeting shall constitute a quorum.

**Appointment of Parliamentarian :** \_\_\_\_\_

**League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
April 26, 2007, 9:00 a.m.-12:10 p.m.  
Unitarian Universalist Church, Las Cruces NM**

**Page numbers refer to the April 2008 edition of THE VOTER.**

**Attendees** (List attached): 39 members, 2 guests. All Board members.

**Call to Order:** 9:15 a.m.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

President Cathy Mathews welcomed all and introduced the Board. She presented two new members, Sharon Burbano and Pat Pedersen and named other new members who were attending their first GLC Annual Meeting.

**Adoption of Business Meeting Rules** (p. 2) Adopted.

**Parliamentarian:** President Mathews presented William Little as Parliamentarian and thanked him for his willingness to serve.

**Approval of 2007 Minutes** (pp. 2-5): Barbara Myers moved to accept as presented. Donna Tate seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** (pp. 5, 7-8): Treasurer Pat Kratz distributed two additional pages (attached) with monthly summaries of income, expenses, and account balances.

She reported that we are solvent currently, but will be working intensely during the coming year to gather more community support. Costs, especially for printing and mailing, are rising drastically, but our dues have not, so member donations are more important than ever. She urged members to add a donation amount, no matter how small, to their dues renewal check.

**Report from the President** (p. 6): President Mathews reiterated her pride in the increased visibility of our League this year, thanks to active Public Relations work by Director Marnie Leverett and to the successful Spring Voter Registration Drive, a new activity for LWV/GLC, organized by Voter Services Director Donna Tate. These events, in addition to everything else listed in the report, have meant that this past year was highly productive and the President also repeated her thanks to all of the involved members.

**ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS Adoption of 2008-2009 Annual Budget** (pp. 7-8): Budget Committee Chair Catherine Christmann presented the Proposed Budget. Nancy Phillips moved to adopt. Second by Pat Kratz. In the

process of the, as usual, protracted discussion, Marjorie Burr moved that \$300 be added to the *WHO'S WHO* budget so that we could distribute this publication more widely. Second by Marnie Leverett. Motion carried. Cliff Pelton moved that the \$4,158 designated as potential contributions from Community Supporters be raised to \$4,458. Mary Pearson seconded. Motion carried.

Also during the discussion, Marjorie Burr, Chair of the Finance Committee, announced that donations to date have been \$5,399. Thanks to Dale Yeo's donation of \$1, the final total is \$5,400. Bonnie Burn announced that a fund-raising gala, a public showing of the film "Iron Jawed Angels" will be presented in January or February of 2009. Volunteers are needed for this event.

When the question was called, the motion to adopt the budget carried.

**Adoption of the Nonpartisan Policy** (p. 9): Bonnie Burn explained that LWVUS policy requires that this statement be renewed at every Annual Meeting and led the Q & A. Vicki Simons moved to adopt; Sue Liefeld seconded. Christina Little noted that the word "elected" in the 3<sup>rd</sup> line of the 4th paragraph probably should read "election" and moved that it be corrected. Motion to adopt the nonpartisan policy with the corrected wording was made by Mary Pearson. Second by Pat Kratz. Motion carried. When the question was called, the motion to adopt the Nonpartisan policy carried.

**Adoption of Proposed Bylaws Changes** (pp. 9 & 10): Marjorie Burr led the presentation, pointing out that the first two of the three changes (wording of the Mission Statement and Purpose and Policy Statements) being voted on were mandated by LWVUS. Mary Pearson moved to accept the Mission Statement change. Nancy Phillips seconded. Motion carried.

Marjorie Burr moved to accept the proposed re-wording of Article II, Section 1, Purpose statement. William Little seconded. Motion carried.

Article III Membership is divided into two parts. Marjorie Burr moved to deal with each part separately. Second by Sue Liefeld. Motion carried. On the Section 2 definition of membership, Marjorie Burr moved to accept the proposed change

("associate" members to "honorary" members.) Mary Pearson seconded. After discussion, the motion did not carry.

Marjorie Burr moved to retain the wording of the original ("The membership of the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces shall be composed of voting members and associate members.") Seconded by William Little. Motion carried.

Mary Pearson moved to accept the changes in Section a. (top of p. 10). Janet Stevens seconded. Motion carried.

**Report of the Nominating Committee and Election** (p. 10): Committee Chair Win Jacobs noted that only one member, Nancy Phillips, incoming secretary, is new to the Board. She appealed to all members present to be ready to step up to serve on future Boards. She moved that nominees be elected. Bonnie Burn seconded. Motion carried.

**Adoption of Current Position Statements** (pp. 10-12): Bonnie Burn moved to adopt all of these. Win Jacobs seconded. Presenter Vicki Simons pointed out that in the light of the city/county planning effort called Vision 2040, we might want to consider additional work on the Land Use Statement. Question called. Motion carried.

**Adoption of Proposed New Program Items** (p. 12): Vicki Simons presented these and led the Q & A. Donna Tate moved to adopt. Win Jacobs seconded. Both Bonnie Burn and Marnie Leverett spoke to the need for volunteers on the Land Use Study Committee. A special need is for observers to the Vision 2040 public meetings. Motion carried.

**Identification of LWVNM Council Delegates:** President Mathews announced that she will go to Los Alamos for this annual event and called for another member to accompany her.

**Identification of LWVUS Convention Delegates:** Bonnie Burn will go to Portland OR for this event. President Mathews asked for an additional member to attend.

**Annual Meeting Minutes** *(Continued from page 3)***Directors' Reports** (pp. 6, 12-15):

1. Betty Pool announced that she had brought the Historical Album, a new GLC project this year. It will be on view in the middle of the meeting room during lunch.
2. Donna Tate noted that Spring Registration efforts, also new for GLC this year, resulted in 89 registrations.

See designated VOTER pages for the written reports. Points 1 & 2 are additions.

**Directions to the Board from Members:**

1. *WHO'S WHO* should be more widely distributed. Perhaps a separate sub-committee should be formed to focus on distribution. Give volunteer distributors more specific guidance about where to take the brochures.
2. Remember to appoint a third member of the Nominating Committee before January.
3. Actively seek a Co-Director for Voter Services.
4. Raise awareness of our name, League of Women Voters of GREATER Las Cruces, especially as we participate in wider county activities like the Vision 2040 planning.
5. GLC should sponsor a forum on something – perhaps Land Use – but this is something that the League does well and we should be more active in such efforts.

**Adjournment:** Cliff Pelton moved for adjournment at 12:10. Win Jacobs seconded. Motion carried.

**After lunch,** President Mathews expressed special thanks to outgoing Secretary Johnnie Aldrich.

She introduced the speakers who would explain TIDDs (Tax Increment Development Districts): Sharon Thomas, City Council (and LWV/GLC) Member and Bob Hearn, recently appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission of Doña Ana County. Both are members of the Quality Growth Alliance.

Encourage individuals to join the League where citizens like you are actively engaged in effecting change on the local, state, and national level.

**Treasurers Report—FY 2007-2008**  
*Pat Kratz, Treasurer*

Every year the League's income consists mainly of membership dues, member donations, and community fund drives. This year is no different even with the bad economy.

The LWVUS per member payment (PMP) has been raised to \$29.20 for full membership and \$14.60 for household members. The LWVNM per member payment (PMP) is now \$12 and \$6, which may be changed at the State Convention (May 16-17). So, we will get even less from the \$50 individual and \$25 for 2<sup>nd</sup> household dues. Therefore, even in this economy, the League's expenses still have to be paid.

The League had two fund raisers this year. The regular fund drive (valued contributors and community donations) and a fund drive at the Fountain Theatre showing the movie, "Iron Jawed Angels," which netted the League about \$1,000 to \$1,100 after expenses. We were very pleased with the ticket sales and turnout for this event.

This year will not be as expensive for us because although there will be local elections, there is no National Election which was very expensive (two *Voters' Guides*).

We still depend on members who donate their money, talent and time. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and efforts to make this endeavor such a success.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

May 1, 2009

\$50 - Individual Membership  
\$75 - Household Membership

Payable at Annual Meeting **OR**  
Mail to League of Women Voters  
of Greater Las Cruces  
P.O. Box 8322  
Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322  
Questions: 524-VOTE (8683)

**Thank you**

## Report of the President - Cathy Mathews, President



What a year! The accomplishments and activities of the League are quite staggering.

- Monthly Meeting Speakers Topics – NMSU's International Relations Institute, Civil Liberties, Border Fence and the Effect on Wildlife, Improvements at the Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections
- Studies – Ongoing (Behavioral Health Study, Election Procedures/Voter Turnout), Advocacy (recycling, metropolitan court)
- Consensus – Fair Representation (LWVNM) and National Popular Vote (LWVUS)
- Candidates' Forums – State, national and local candidates' forums—both were televised and shown on Comcast Channel 20 and shown continuously on that channel during the weekend before the General Election
- Publications – November General Election Voters' Guide, Membership Directory, Membership brochure, We Care About Good Government
- Observer Reports – South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA), South Central Recycling Partnership (SCRaP), Metropolitan Planning Organization, Vision 2040, Las Cruces City Council, and NMSU Board of Regents
- Fundraising – Screening of "Iron Jawed Angels", raffle of Americana quilt, letter campaigns and personal visits to donors
- Voter registrations
- Historical Album
- Health Care – Health Security Act
- League Phone – 524-VOTE

LWVNM focused on health care, and election/ethics reform and also worked on other issues including repeal of the death penalty, education, drug policy, freedom of choice, and domestic partnerships.

In addition, LWVUS took on campaign finance reform, civil liberties, DC voting rights, election administration, ethics and lobbying reform, global climate change, health care reform, and tax policy.

This year has been quite rewarding for me. I truly appreciate the opportunity and the honor to have been the League President and to have worked with so many of you dedicated and talented women and men.

**Thank you,**  
*Cathy Mathews*

### Historical Album - 2008 – 2009 - *Judith Scott, Chair*

The album has gotten quite fat this year, particularly with the addition of the "Opinions ... We Have Them" section featuring contributions of individual members to the Letters To The Editor and Opinion pages of our local newspapers. The liveliness, acumen, and community involvement of our members is gratifying, and I have enjoyed watching this section of the album grow.

A primary purpose of the Historical Album is to record League events throughout the year, and photographic coverage of events is a major challenge of this position. Newspapers and newsletters are gleaned for articles, editorials, and opinion pieces relating to our local League, and our position documents are included as well. For next year, I recommend that we have at least a once-a-year spread covering the activities of individual committees, and the Board also. This is something that I very much would have liked to have been able to do this year.

*(Continued on page 13)*

**ANNUAL MEETING: Treasurer's Report and Proposed 2009-2010 Budget**

| <u>Category</u>                 | <u>Budget 2008-2009</u> | <u>Actual</u>   | <u>Budget 2009-2010</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                   |                         |                 |                         |
| <b>Membership</b>               |                         |                 |                         |
| Regular                         | \$3,000                 | \$3,600         | \$3,775                 |
| Household                       | \$175                   | \$175           | \$175                   |
| <b>Fund Drive</b>               |                         |                 |                         |
| Members                         | \$1,500                 | \$1,740         | \$1,000                 |
| Community Supporters            | \$4,158                 | \$550           | \$500                   |
| Americana Quilt                 |                         |                 | \$500                   |
| "Ironed Jawed Angels"           |                         | \$1,265         |                         |
| Budget Deficit                  |                         |                 | \$4,098                 |
| <b>Member Meetings</b>          |                         |                 |                         |
| With A Leader                   | \$1,200                 | \$1,941         |                         |
| Annual Meeting Lunches          | \$300                   | \$340           |                         |
| Legislative Lunches             |                         | \$362           |                         |
| <b>Other</b>                    |                         |                 |                         |
| LWVUS Education Fund            | \$2,786                 | \$1,036         | \$1,036                 |
| Certificate of Deposit          | \$1,000                 | \$1,025         | \$1,025                 |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>\$14,119</b>         | <b>\$12,034</b> | <b>\$12,109</b>         |
| <b>Expenses</b>                 |                         |                 |                         |
| PMP—US (\$29.20& \$14.60)       | \$1,624                 | \$1,860         | \$2,292                 |
| PMP—NM (\$12 & \$6)             | \$720                   | \$720           | \$942                   |
| <b>Meetings and Conventions</b> |                         |                 |                         |
| LWVUS Convention                | \$1,500                 | \$1,024         | \$650                   |
| LVWNM Council                   | \$200                   |                 | \$100                   |
| LWVNM Convention Exp.           |                         |                 | \$500                   |
| Legislative Day                 | \$100                   |                 | \$100                   |
| Local Annual Meeting            | \$100                   | \$50            | \$100                   |

| <u>Category</u>                           | <u>Budget 2008-2009</u> | <u>Actual</u>   | <u>Budget 2009-2010</u> |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Voter Service</b>                      |                         |                 |                         |
| Candidates' Forums                        | \$100                   |                 | \$100                   |
| Legislative Breakfast                     | \$300                   | \$362           | \$300                   |
| Voters' Guide                             | \$5,000                 | \$4,124         | \$1,500                 |
| Who's Who                                 | \$1,200                 |                 | \$1,500                 |
| <b>League Operations</b>                  |                         |                 |                         |
| Program Expenses                          | \$400                   | \$110           | \$400                   |
| Behavioral Health (\$200)                 |                         |                 |                         |
| Metro Court (\$200)                       |                         |                 |                         |
| Election Process/Voter<br>Turnout (\$100) |                         |                 |                         |
| Telephone                                 | \$300                   | \$101           | \$300                   |
| P.O. Box                                  | \$50                    | \$56            | \$75                    |
| Office Supplies                           | \$300                   | \$64            | \$300                   |
| Historical Album                          | \$100                   |                 | \$100                   |
| Membership Expense                        | \$150                   |                 | \$200                   |
| Fund Drive Expense                        | \$200                   | \$103           | \$200                   |
| Web Site Domain Name                      |                         |                 | \$25                    |
| Web Site Software Purchase                |                         |                 | \$50                    |
| Web Site Annual Fee                       |                         |                 | \$300                   |
| <b>Publications</b>                       |                         |                 |                         |
| Voter Printer Expense                     | \$850                   | \$840           | \$900                   |
| Voter Postage Expense                     | \$550                   | \$572           | \$700                   |
| Brochure: We Care . . .<br>Government     | \$100                   | \$133           | \$150                   |
| Membership Directory Printing             | \$150                   | \$148           | \$200                   |
| Membership Directory Mailing              | \$125                   | \$75            | \$125                   |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>\$14,119</b>         | <b>\$10,342</b> | <b>\$12,109</b>         |
| <b>Income Less Expenses</b>               |                         | <b>\$1,692</b>  |                         |

**Budget** (Continued from page 7)**Footnotes**

1. As you review the budget, some budget categories are missing (e.g., *Voters' Guide* and *Who's Who* are now part of the LWV Education Fund category) and other categories that had no activity (e.g., State Convention Registrations) are no longer shown. The Budget Committee continues to refine the budget format to show only budget allocations and not categories that show offsetting income and expenses.
2. The proposed budget is less than last year because it more accurately reflects the expenses that will actually be incurred this year; however, there is a deficit of \$4,598 between projected revenue and expenses. This amount is shown in the proposed Fund Drive category as a Budget Deficit.
3. Member donations were reduced because of the current economic situation. We encourage members to donate at the time that dues are renewed, and we ask that you be as generous as possible.
4. LWVUS per member payment increases to \$29.40 for individuals and \$14.60 for 2nd household members for a total of \$2,292, an increase of \$432 over last year.
5. LWVNM per member payment is budgeted at the current rate, but could be changed at convention (May 16-17, 2009).
6. Web site expenses are a new budget item and are included in this budget in the event that a decision is made to move to an independent account.
7. The Budget Committee proposes that scholarship memberships not be offered this year because the Certificate of Deposit earned very little interest.
8. The increase in all publication allocations reflects an increase in membership, printing, and postage.

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## ***ANNUAL MEETING: Nominating Committee***

**Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors**

President - Bonnie Burn (2009-2011)  
 Treasurer - Roberta Gran (2009-2011)

Director (Membership)  
 Pat Pedersen (2009-2011)

Director (Program)  
 Sharon Burbano (2009-2010)

Nominating Committee:  
 Johnnie Aldrich, Chair  
 Marjorie Burr, Elected Member

**Continuing on the Board**

Vice-President - Vicki Simons (2008-2010)  
 Secretary - Nancy Phillips (2008-2010)

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On behalf of the Nominating Committee, we  
 thank our nominees for accepting our invitation  
 to lead.

Sue Liefeld, Chair  
 LaJune Smith, Elected Member  
 Marjorie Burr, Appointed Member

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## ***ANNUAL MEETING: Nonpartisan Policy***

The League of Women Voters, 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.

The League recognizes the role of the political parties in our form of government and believes that participation in the activities of the political parties is an essential ingredient of citizen responsibility. While the League urges its members to be politically active, certain constraints are necessary in order to maintain the nonpartisanship of the organization. The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters has established the following guidelines:

### **Board of Directors**

The Board has the responsibility of maintaining the fact of the nonpartisanship of the organization.

All members, including Board members, may engage in the following activities: signing nominating petitions, serving as election officials, serving as clerical volunteers for candidates for office. All other political activities in which a Board member may wish to engage should be subject first to his/her own scrutiny, and, in case of question, should be discussed with the Board.

The President and the Voter Service Director may not take an active, visible role in a campaign for a political candidate. In consistently campaigning for or against non-League issues Board members must identify their interest as personal and not League-sponsored.

Any Board member who plans to run for elected office should pro forma submit his/her resignation to the Board. The Board should consider the visibility of the Board position in deciding whether or not to accept the resignation. Any candidate for elective office who continues his/her Board membership must not use his/her Board position in campaign appearances or literature. Candidates for public office should not participate in the planning of League Voter Service activities.

### **League Positions**

Once League (local, state, or national) takes a position on an issue, members may not identify themselves as League members in publicly expressing an opinion that is in opposition to a League position.

### **Representing League**

Members representing the League in the community should be sensitive to their responsibilities. When acting in the public as League representatives, members must not allow partisanship to be discernable. These members should be fully aware of League positions. It is the obligation of the Board to make the representative aware of relevant League positions.

### **Serving on Commissions**

Members may serve on governmental commissions at their own discretion. If the appointment is League-related, the appointee should be fully aware of the League positions as they relate to the commission's responsibilities.

### **Member Candidacies**

There should be no special notice in the VOTER of the candidacies of active League members.

### **League Meetings**

Members in the leadership roles at unit and other public meetings have the responsibility to ensure the nonpartisanship of the meeting and its environment.

Only Board of Directors-approved petitions may be circulated at League meetings.

### **League Roster**

League's roster is not to be made available for non-League use without Board consent.

We grow democracy  
one VOTE at a time!

## ***ANNUAL MEETING: Program - Adopt Current Positions***

**Solid Waste Recycling** (1999, revised 2008) The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces supports a program of collecting items suitable for cost-effective recycling. It is important to seek new markets for recycling items, make recycling more accessible, find methods of cost-effective collecting and promote more compensated recycling. The League encourages city and county governmental cooperation toward all-inclusive trash disposal, and more readily accessible recycling for all county residents. Public education should be encouraged to keep citizens informed about all aspects of the program, to promote the purchasing of recycled products in minimal packaging, and to increase participation in the recycling program.

**Metropolitan Court** (2007) The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces believes that a Metropolitan Court system best serves the requirements of due process and fair trials for the residents of Doña Ana County. Because of the geographic size of the county, the League supports a system that includes satellite courts in outlying areas.

**Branigan Library** (1986, 1996 and 2007) The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces believes that a public library is a major community resource. Growth in our city and county has outpaced the current library resources. The Library continues to lag behind established standards for public libraries. It is essential that the following actions be taken:

- that the main library facility be expanded in order to enlarge the collection and provide adequate space for staff and program.
- that branch libraries be established to improve geographic access to library services. Possible collaboration with other community entities such as schools, recreation centers or senior centers should be encouraged.
- that the County Government be encouraged to provide more financial support to reflect the widespread use of the library throughout the County.

**County Government** (1977, amended 1997) The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces supports the following measures to improve the efficiency and services offered to citizens of Doña Ana County by its county government:

1. development of a comprehensive plan for Doña Ana County that will contain long-range goals and objectives for the county and serve as a guide toward managing expected growth; features of this plan should include provision for orderly development while preserving existing resources;
2. the principle of continued cooperation between the City of Las Cruces and the County of Doña Ana through sharing of facilities and personnel wherever feasible; suggested areas of cooperation include computer time, public library services, Memorial Medical Center, planning, purchasing, detention facilities, police/sheriff personnel and training of personnel.
3. the principle that residents of the City of Las Cruces should recognize their responsibilities toward county government by participating actively in its processes and that county officials in turn act as representatives of all the county's residents.

**Election Procedures** (1992, amended 1994, 1997, and 2003)

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces supports:

- implementation of mail ballot elections locally whenever an election meets the requirements in order to reduce costs and increase responses.
- cooperation and coordination among city, county, and school district officials to consolidate and establish polling places so each individual has a single, permanent voting place.
- implementation of split shifts for election-day workers to help alleviate the shortage of poll workers.
- clarification and simplification of options for early and absentee voting procedures. Election officials should send clear notice to the public of the dates each begins and ends and increase publicity of voter options for polling places.

- increase efforts to inform voters of the importance of voting and special campaigns in election years to get out the vote.

**Health Care in Doña Ana County** (March, 1976, amended 1999, 2003, 2005) Adequate health care for all citizens improves the general welfare of our county and ensures the well being of individual residents. The goal is to decrease the number of those without or with inadequate health care insurance in the County. To achieve this objective the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces supports measures that would improve both access to and adequate funds for primary health care for the residents of Doña Ana County.

To ensure that adequate health care can be provided, the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces supports efforts to increase the number of health care personnel, improved publicity of existing health care services, guaranteed health care for children, improved health education for the public, increased availability of rural health clinics; provision of public transport of the elderly to public facilities and availability of a prenatal clinic for those with low incomes.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces believes that there should be a meaningful mechanism for public oversight of use of public monies by both hospitals. It is the responsibility of the city and the county to ensure that the terms of the lease between the city, county and administration of Memorial Medical Center that provide access to health care at that institution for indigents are met and that the monies from the trust fund set up by the lease are expended only for health care.

**Land Use Planning** (1974, amended 1984, 1996, 1997, 2000, and 2001) The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces believes that land use decision making must start with a comprehensive plan that clearly reflects what the citizens have expressed as important goals and desired outcomes for their community. Because our region is encompassed by several separate planning entities (Doña Ana County, City of Las Cruces, La Mesilla and Extra-Territorial Zone) coordination among all of them is essential to ensure regional coherence. In order to facilitate this coordination, comprehensive

plans, including future land use plans as necessary, should be specific enough to stand alone separate from detailed zoning regulations and give direction to all planning and zoning commissioners, board of adjustment and other planning decision makers.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces also believes that a comprehensive land use plan must include a clear delineation of responsibilities and authority for execution of the plan. Planning decision makers such as planning and zoning commissioners, city councilors, the Extra-Territorial Authority, the county commissioners and the City Board of Adjustment should be held accountable for their decisions and be ready to show the rationale for their votes.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces supports preservation of agricultural land and open spaces within Doña Ana County. Because water quantity and quality are global concerns of particular urgency in our arid region, the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces strongly supports protection of water supplies in every phase of planning. Further, we support preservation of all the natural resources we enjoy: air quality, scenic views, night skies, green areas and natural habitats ranging from river valley to desert mesas, arroyos and the surrounding mountains.

The public should be encouraged to participate in the planning process at all levels wherever feasible. In addition, the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces believes that the planning process must include accurate identification of long range and indirect costs to taxpayers that can be shared with and understood by the public prior to approval.

**Municipal Elections** (1993, amended 1997) The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces believes that

1. if no candidate receives at least 50 percent of the vote, a run-off election will be held between the top two vote-getters within 28 days of the election date; and
2. nominating petitions for the offices of Mayor and Councilor should contain the signatures of at least two percent of the number of qualified electors eligible to vote for that office.

*(Continued on page 12)*

**Adopt Current Positions** *(Continued from page 11)*

**Water** (1996, amended 1997 and 2001) The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces supports policies that maintain the viability of ground and surface water supply in the region of the Mesilla Bolson. We recognize the need for urgency of action to protect and conserve our useable water supply. While recognizing the imperative of equitable resolution among competing water users, we urge expeditious conclusion to the ongoing adjudication and supply inventory processes.

We support communication among the various government agencies, as well as Elephant Butte Irrigation District, leading to clear definitions of responsibilities of each entity for managing water resources. While recognizing the continuous need to update data and technology, we urge prompt implementation of plans to utilize the substantial information already available.

We support water conservation regulations with realistic penalties for non-compliance, coupled with a progressive water-use fee schedule, and continuing public education on the need to make water choices.

**Education** (1998, amended 1999) The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces supports a system of public education. This system should establish as important goals for all students the development of the nature of democracy and citizen responsibilities, the ability to think critically, and the acquisition of skills necessary to continue to learn and to function as adults in a complex society.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces supports the participation of parents in the education process. Involvement of individual parents and groups of parents in their children's education and in the school system should be actively and consistently encouraged by the school district. This encouragement should include outreach to those parents who may have limited experience interacting with the schools.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces supports a school system structured so students with equivalent needs have equal access to services. Efforts should be made to ensure that access does not vary with respect to factors such as the age and geographic location of the facility. The League believes that the federal government should provide to the states either complete funding or substantial funding for all federal mandates in the area of special education.

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## ***ANNUAL MEETING: Adopt Proposed Program (2009-2010)***

### **Recommended for Study:**

**Behavioral Health:** While a study of behavioral health administration in Doña Ana County has been a proposed study item for the past two years, it has not yet been organized to the point of presenting any information to the membership, let alone questions for consideration for consensus and action. The participants in the January program planning meeting, however, were very interested in seeing this study continue in its original direction: to identify the type of services needed for individuals with mental illness. It is suggested that a person with organizational skills be partnered with a person with knowledge in this field to get the study organized so that we can see some movement toward membership understanding of the issues, consensus, and action this year.

**Election Procedures/Voter Turnout Study Committee:** This committee has been ongoing for a number of years, and still has significant ongoing concerns. The committee proposed more of a focus on advocacy than study and came to consensus about its work during the 2009-2010 League year:

- **Reducing the number of polling places** the average voters has to keep track of (2 or 3 a year) . Potential voters get turned away from the polls because they are either in the wrong place or have no legal record of registration. The study committee will follow pending legislation during the legislative session that might address some or all of these concerns.

- Same day voter registration and other bills related to elections and/or voters will be followed during the 2009 legislative session, and the committee will inform league members about action that might be appropriate.
- National Popular Vote is an issue that will be featured at our March League meeting, and the committee may decide to study it further or look for a suitable substitute for New Mexico.

Currently, there are no position statements pending.

### **Recommended for Action**

**Branigan Library**: The Branigan Library position was last revised in 2007, essentially to include advocacy for branch libraries. There had been expectation that library administrators and city administrators would introduce this subject for appropriations and action. This has not materialized. Therefore it appears that LWV should become proactive in advocating for branch libraries through raising the issue and persisting in keeping it in public awareness. Additionally, we might want to consolidate statements in our position calling for collaboration with community entities and encouraging County Government to offer more support into a more comprehensive statement calling for a **regional** library. Several LWV members are past and present Library Board members, and they could serve as the nucleus for a proactive stance on this issue.

**Metropolitan Court**: This position statement is a sterling example of LWV's becoming the point on an issue. There is an active committee working on this action item. It is gaining publicity for the League of Women Voters. While we do not anticipate success in the short term, we believe it is worthy of continued support as an action item.

**Solid Waste Recycling**: Two LWV members, Cliff Pelton and Marjorie Burr, have been involved in this issue during the past year. Both are participants of South Central Recycling Partnership (SCRaP), Cliff as a citizen and Marjorie as an LWV representative. There has been forward movement on the issues of all-inclusive trash disposal and readily accessible recycling for all county residents, as well as public education. A proposed amended Joint Powers Agreement for the operation of the South Central Solid Waste Authority will allow SCSWA to address these issues. There will be several opportunities for LWV to advocate for our position statements in the coming year. Therefore, we suggest moving this item to an action priority status.

### **Non-Recommended Program Item**

**Land Use and Development**: It appears that LWV is behind the curve on this issue. Members are involved in Vision 2040 strategic planning and TIDDs. But the time for LWV study leading to action is short or nonexistent before public policy decisions will be made. Therefore, the suggestion is not to pursue revision of this item at the present time.

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### **Historical Album** *(Continued from page 5)*

Our Historical project is well worth additional support from all of us. You are needed! Can you assist by perusing the print media or taking photos for some of the meetings? Have you written a letter to the editor or have you been involved in community affairs? We'd like to see it in the album, so please let the Album Keeper know about it. Could a committee of which you are a member put together a photo report of its activities for the rest of us to see?

The Historical Album records what we do and can help us visualize what we intend to do. It also represents us to ourselves. We see ourselves and each other as a group and as individuals within the group. Food for thought.

## **ANNUAL DIRECTOR, STUDY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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### **Voter Services Report**

Exciting, busy, and frustrating are adjectives that describe voter services activities during this general election year.

A spring voter registration drive in anticipation of the Primary Election began the new League year. This was followed by publication of a *Voters' Guide*. Some of our members volunteered as split-shift poll workers, an opportunity offered for the first time by the Bureau of Elections.

The committee worked through the summer to organize fall events in preparation for the November General Election. Two voter registrations were held in October at the Farmer's Market. Two candidates' forums were held at the County Government Building—one for U.S. House of Representative and state legislators and the other for local candidates running for elected office. The county and city cooperated to make coverage of the Candidates' Forums available to the public on cable channel 20. In fact, the forums were shown continually during the weekend before the November 4 election. A *Voters' Guide* was published and distributed as an insert to *The Bulletin*.

A very successful Breakfast with the Legislators was held in December. Most of our legislative delegates attended and there was a good exchange of information about legislative priorities.

Upon certification of the results of the School Board Election held in February, the *Who's Who* of elected officials was updated (see article below).

Appreciation is expressed to the many members who worked on the committee and on the activities we had this year. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

Kudos to Donna Tate who held this director portfolio for several years and whose resignation this year the Board accepted with regret. She

has been instrumental in ensuring that the public was registered to vote and had information that helped them make informed decisions in the voting booth.

*Thank you.*

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### **2009 Who's Who - Diane Greenholdt, Editor**

I was tasked with the job of revising the annual *Who's Who: Directory of Elected Officials*. This year the directory was expanded from 12 to 16 pages by adding material on the municipalities of Hatch, Mesilla and Sunland Park. While doing those municipalities, I also decided to include the Gadsden Independent School District and the Hatch Valley School District. Municipal Courts were also expanded and other changes made.

The *Las Cruces Bulletin* sponsored the project by printing 5000 copies of which distribution of 3500 were the responsibility of the League. A wide-ranging list of sites throughout Doña Ana County received copies of the *Who's Who* thanks to the efforts of members Johnnie Aldrich, Jane Asche, Sharon Burbano, Bonnie Burn, Sally Christman, Marnie Leverett, Christina Little, Pat Pedersen, LaJune Smith and Donna Tate, along with League spouse Hank Greenholdt. The *Who's Who* also has been included on the League's website, thanks to Jim Leverett, and flyers have been developed informing the public that it may access the directory there. Additions and corrections required in the interim between the 2009 and 2010 edition will be made on the web site. Marnie Leverett handled the public relations and worked with *The Bulletin* to develop ads that will run periodically as space allows. We are indebted to *The Bulletin* both for its sponsorship and for the ad space it is donating. The League also is indebted to the many staff people of the elected officials listed who were so helpful in providing up-to-date information for the publication and to the League members who provided guidance to this new member.

**Democracy is NOT  
for wimps!**

**Membership** - *Bonnie Burn, Director*

|                  |             |             |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Membership Count | <u>2008</u> | <u>2009</u> |
| Individual       | 59          | 68          |
| 1st Household    | 7           | 7           |
| 2nd Household    | 7           | 7           |
| National         | <u>5</u>    | <u>6</u>    |
| Total            | 78          | 88          |

Despite some attrition, we are continuing to see our membership increase by vigilant recruitment. For this, we have to **thank** each of our members who are ambassadors for our League and invite members of the community to join. "Each One Ask One" is an effective LWVUS program. The League's visibility in the community during the 2008 election year and our successful gala fund raiser showing the movie, "Iron Jawed Angels," also helped. Our brochure, *We Care About Good Government*, is proving to be a successful recruitment tool.

New Member Orientations were held in March—an evening and a morning session. All new members receive a packet of information and a welcoming letter when they first join. "How The League Works," a handout, is given to members at the end of the orientation meetings.

I appreciated your patience while we moved from a breakfast to a lunch format for our Lunch with a Leader meetings. Our average attendance is 30 per meeting.

As I leave office, I want to thank the many members for their recruitment efforts, those who assisted me with comments and suggestions, and all of you for making this an interesting, educational two-year term.

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**Behavioral Health Services Study Group**

The major activity for the study group was to begin touring the available facilities in Las Cruces. Visits included the Southwest Counseling Center (SWCC), Mesilla Valley Hospital, and Memorial Medical Center.

I appreciate the work of the committee members: Sharon Burbano, Ruth Brown, Bonnie Burn, Christina Little, and Marilyn Lowe.

I look forward to continuing the work of this study group during the 2010 League year.

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**Election Procedures/Voter Turnout Study Committee** - *Marnie Leverett, Chair*

This year's activities were more action than study. We started by talking to the new Election Supervisor, Lynn Ellins. He suggested that we put together a voter survey on voter satisfaction. We tried a distribution and collection at three municipal elections--Hatch, Sunland Park and Mesilla--early in the spring. Those went well, though we ended up changing some of the wording on the survey. In June, at the Primary Election, and with the help of volunteers from American Association of University Women (AAUW) as well as the League, we did a much larger sampling of about 368 voters in 41 precincts. The majority of samplers indicated that getting to the correct voting place is still a problem for many voters as is uncertainty about where they are supposed to go and whether or not they are registered in the right precinct. Lack of privacy at the voting kiosks was another cause for concern. We shared the report with Mr. Ellins, who is now the County Clerk.

Several election-related bills were introduced in the 2008 session and again in the 2009 session. Our committee has spent time studying them and spreading information about them to League members.

We are also trying to educate ourselves better about the new national movement toward making the popular vote count rather than being dependent on the electoral college. We anticipate that that issue will lead to more action next year.

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**Metropolitan Court Study Committee**  
*Marjorie Burr, Chair*

The goal for this year was to get the State Legislature to pass a bill to establish a Metropolitan Court in Doña Ana County. As of press time for this annual report, we do not know whether or not this will happen.

*(Continued on page 16)*

### **Metropolitan Court** *(Continued from page 15)*

Having met with all of our legislative delegation previously, we now sought to broaden our support among local officials and citizens. We met individually with all City Councilors and made a presentation in May to the City Council, at which time it passed a resolution supporting the metropolitan court. We also met individually with County Commissioners individually and asked them for a resolution in support, but the Commission declined. We met with the editorial board of the *Las Cruces Sun-News* in May and got a favorable editorial. We made a presentation to the Government Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. And we had a 90-second interview with Governor Bill Richardson when he was in Las Cruces in July. He said he favored a metropolitan court for Doña Ana County. The NM Municipal League also supports the idea.

With the beginning of the 49<sup>th</sup> Legislature in January our efforts shifted to Santa Fe. Representative Joni Gutierrez introduced HB275 to create the Doña Ana County Metropolitan Court. When the bill was considered by the House Judiciary Committee (HJC) on January 28, the three members of the Metro Court Committee were there to speak in favor of it. The HJC gave the bill a DO PASS recommendation on that day, but we do not know where it stands in the legislative process since then. There are many facets to this issue and many interested parties.

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#### **Recycling Committee Report**

*Marjorie Burr, Chair*

The League has regularly observed the meetings of the South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA) and participated in the South Central Recycling Project (SCRaP) during the past year. This has been a critical year in these organizations as the focus of SCSWA has expanded to include recycling as well as trash collection and landfill operation, and SCSWA has been organized, beginning with government agencies which generate trash and broadening to include citizens and groups such as LWV that want to promote recycling among all residents.

The amendment of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) under which SCSWA operates is the upshot of its enhanced mission. While the amended JPA has not been considered by the City Council or Board of County Commissioners yet, if it is approved, recycling, perhaps even curb-side recycling, will become a part of our lifestyle here as it is in many other parts of the country. And, while many groups have promoted recycling, SCSWA promises to be the first one to concerted work for it in the area.

At the same time these positive developments are happening, the economic downturn has hit the market for recyclables hard. The City of Las Cruces Recycling Program is still able to move all the material that citizens voluntarily recycle, but the market prices for all goods—paper, cardboard, plastics, and metal—have dramatically decreased.

This is an area in which League is not an initiator, but it is an active participant. We hope you read “Talking Trash” in The VOTER and put some of the tips to use in your home and business life. If you would like to make more of a difference in your environment, there is room for you on the League’s Recycling Committee.

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#### **Finance Committee Report**

*Marjorie Burr, Chair*

The Finance Committee developed new lists of potential supporters and mailed request letters to them, without a significant response. With the economic downturn, our community-based support has dwindled significantly.

Much effort was put into the fundraising event on February 14. Shirley Armstrong and Susan Joanis co-chaired the event, a screening of the movie about suffragists, “Iron Jawed Angels,” at the Fountain Theatre, with a brunch served. The date also commemorated the 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the founding of the League of Women Voters. Tickets at \$15 each were sold for the capacity of the theatre, 100. About 85 people attended. The event netted \$1,265, exceeding our goal of \$1,000. League

membership and businesses contacted for contributions were very supportive of this effort.

Connie Lee has donated another quilt to the League for which we are selling raffle tickets at \$5 each or three for \$10.

Membership contributions have increased slightly over the previous year, but still a lower percentage of the members contribute than we believe is satisfactory. After the required national and state per member payments (PMPs), the local League has little left from the \$50 per member dues to fund our local activities. The Finance Committee is not suggesting a dues increase, but a more concerted effort to encourage members to contribute beyond their dues amount.

Members of the Finance Committee are Bonnie Burn, Ellen Haltom, Pat Kratz, and Dale Yeo.

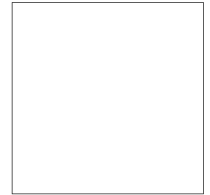
|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Membership Contributions | \$1,640        |
| LWV Education Fund:      |                |
| Members                  | \$ 100         |
| Community Supporters     | \$ 350         |
| Community Contributions  | \$ 200         |
| Fundraising Event        | <u>\$1,265</u> |
| TOTAL                    | <u>\$3,555</u> |

## NOTES

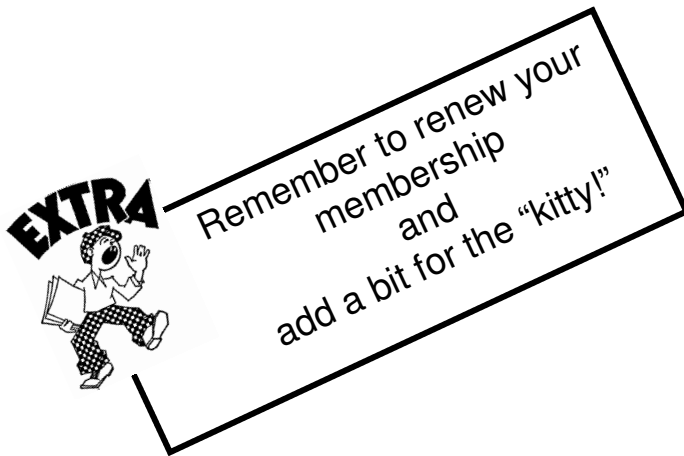


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 P.O. Box 8322  
 Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322



**FIRST CLASS**



**PLEASE BRING THIS  
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 TO THE MEETING**

## CALENDAR

April 6 (Monday) - 5:00-6:30 p.m. - **Board Meeting**, Branigan Library Board Room

April 6 (Monday) - **Deadline for ANNUAL MEETING reservations** RSVP Vicki Simons 522-4813

April 7 (Tuesday) - 9:30 a.m., **Election Procedures/Voter Turnout Committee** at the home of Marnie Leverett, chair. 2975 Terrace Drive (#315), Good Samaritan Village (522-0347)

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

April 18 (Saturday) - 9:00 a.m. - **ANNUAL MEETING**, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano Dr.

**Speaker Topic: Children's Court: Helping to Heal the Community - Judge Lisa Schultz**

District Judge Lisa Schultz is a general jurisdiction judge who handles cases in every area; however, her Children's Court docket always includes half the criminal juvenile cases, abuse and neglect cases, and all three juvenile drug courts. She also has two hundred guardian and conservator cases and handled adoptions. Judge Schultz received her juris doctor degree from New York Law School and has a master's degree in theological studies from Harvard Divinity School.

### Mark Your Calendar

May 16-17 - LWVNM State Convention, Albuquerque

June 13 - LWVUS Online Council Meeting

### Notable Event

April 22 - Earth Day