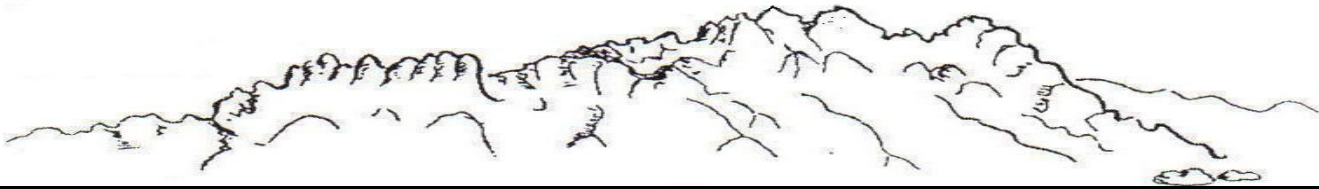


The VOTER

League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
Web Site: www.lwvglc.org
January 2011



Lunch with a Leader - January 10, 2011 **Border Insecurity: How Political Myths Are Deteriorating the Civil Rights of Border Residents**

Vicki Gaubeca, Director, Regional Center for Border Rights, ACLU of New Mexico

Ms. Gaubeca will talk about the over-intensification of federal resources on the U.S.-Mexico border and how a law-enforcement-only approach leads to an increase in civil and human rights violations in border communities. In addition, this approach results in racial profiling, family separations and community suffering that is contrary to American core principles of fairness and justice, and does not fix the immigration system.

She will talk about the effect on community trust and public safety when local police enforce federal immigration law. Also, she will present information about potential immigration-related bills that will be introduced in the upcoming New Mexico Legislature.

As director, she has helped develop and implement a mission of addressing civil and human rights violations that stem from border-specific immigration policy. Her career has given her more than 20 years of experience in policy advocacy, community organizing, public affairs, communications, public health, immigrant rights, and civil rights. She was born and raised in Mexico City and speaks English and Spanish fluently. She has a B.A. degree in English/Communications and a master's degree in public health.

We look forward to your attending this continuing education opportunity about immigration law reform.

CALENDAR

January 4 (Tuesday) - Deadline for Reservations for Lunch with a Leader. RSVP Sharon Burbano (526-2860 or Email: surbano@aol.com). **Reservations are required.** *If you don't cancel your reservation, you will be charged for lunch.*

January 4 (Tuesday) - 8:30 a.m. - Go See Tour: Immigration Detention Hearings, Sierra Blanca Courtroom, U.S. Courthouse, 100 Church Street, Contact: Sharon Burbano (526-2860 or Email: surbano@aol.com). (See p. 3)

January 5 (Wednesday) - 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Board Meeting, Branigan Library, Board Room.

January 10 (Monday) - 10-11 a.m., New Member Orientation, Good Samaritan Society, Social Center, Small Conference Room near Main Auditorium. (See ad p. 3)

January 10 (Monday) - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Lunch with a Leader, "Border Insecurity: How Political Myths Are Deteriorating the Civil Rights of Border Residents." Lunch is \$8, **Reservations required**

(Continued on page 4)

The VOTER

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

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

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

Education
Bonnie Burn - 526-0013

**Mental Illness Services
in Doña Ana County**
Becky Beckett - 522-8171
Mickey Curtis - 532-5655

**Election Procedures and
Voter Turnout**
Marnie Leverett—522-0347

Metropolitan Court
Marjorie Burr - 522-2528

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Web Master - Dale Yeo

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Bonnie Burn - 526-0013
burnb@comcast.net

President's Message

As this issue goes to press, I still have time to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



January is usually a sleepy month after the “busyness” of the holidays. It’s a time to take a breath and think about relaxing. Not so with the League. We have some new, exciting events coming up, and we want **YOU** to be a part of them.

January 4 initiates our first **GO SEE TOUR**. When she learned about the League’s position on immigration issues, U.S. Magistrate Judge Carmen Garza invited us to observe immigration detention hearings in the new U.S. Courthouse. (See article, p. 3, for details)

The new Las Cruces Convention Center is having its grand opening on Saturday, January 15. If you haven’t seen the inside, now is your opportunity. Non-profit organizations are being offered free booths to introduce themselves to the general public. The League is participating! We need **VOLUNTEERS** from among our members to help staff the booth and to register voters. We look forward to seeing you there—as volunteers or visitors.

On January 20 the public is invited to a forum, “Reflections/Dialogue on the Immigration System: Las Cruces/Doña Ana County,” sponsored by the Ad Hoc Immigration Committee. This is an educational opportunity to learn about immigration law reform and to enter the debate. It will be held in two sessions (only need to attend one) from 1-4 p.m. or 5:30-8 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. **Mark your calendars.**

As we start a new year, I wish a good personal and League year for everyone.

Bonnie Burn

Board Highlights - December 3, 2010, 1 - 2:30 p.m., Branigan Library

- Approved purchases of giveaway items for the Convention Center Grand Opening event. The funding, not to exceed \$150, was approved and supplemented by contributions from board members.
- Accepted the final financial report on voter services activities presented by Erika Graf-Webster. Total expenditure was \$4,551.
- Approved New Member orientation scheduled for January 10, 10-11 a.m., Good Samaritan’s Small Conference Room.
- Requested that Sharon Burbano arrange a Go See Tour to the U.S. Courthouse to observe immigration detention hearings.
- Discussed consolidating all contact information under one member who would be responsible for gathering and updating contact information.
- Approved participation in the LWVUS Education Study pilot program in March or April 2011.

GO SEE TOUR – Immigration Detention Hearings – Sharon Burbano, Vice President and Program

The Go See Tours are being revived. The League participated in these adventures when it was first organized and was learning about how government worked in Las Cruces. U.S. Magistrate Judge Carmen Garza, guest speaker, Women Win the Vote celebration, extended an invitation to League members to visit the new U.S. Courthouse and observe the immigration detention court hearings on January 4. She is one of the two U.S. Magistrate Judges who presides over this court. Because the League has a position on immigration and is supporting immigration law reform, we accepted Judge Garza’s invitation. This is an opportunity to learn about immigrant detention before we hear our Lunch with a Leader speaker.

Judge Garza informs us that initial presentments start at 8:30 a.m. and will be held in the Sierra Blanca courtroom on the 3rd floor. During this proceeding, individuals who are newly arrested appear before the court to be advised of their rights.

Following the 8:30 a.m. docket will be the 9:30 general docket that will include detention hearings, preliminary hearings, and change of plea hearings. She will see if she can get the duty attorneys from the United States Attorney’s office and the Public Defender to meet with all of us after the 9:30 docket to answer any of our questions. The 9:30 docket will occur in the same location.

League members can meet in the first floor foyer or go directly to the court room of the U.S. Courthouse located at 100 North Church Street. Parking is available in several places: the lot across the street, the former City Hall spaces, and on the street. Cell phones and sharp instruments like scissors cannot be brought into the courthouse. In addition, you must have some form of government identification such as a driver’s license. You and your possessions in a purse or pockets will be scanned.

Please contact Sharon Burbano, 526-2860, email: sburbano@aol.com to let her know that you plan to attend on January 4 or to ask questions. It will be helpful to us and Judge Garza to know how many people will be coming.



**League of Women Voters
Web Sites**

United States - www.lwv.org
 New Mexico - www.lwvnm.org
 Greater Las Cruces - www.lwvglc.org



New Members

Paula Nielson
 1809 Calle de Suenos
 Las Cruces, NM 88001
 Tel: 386-7957
 Email: paulanielson@comcast.net

Sadie Valverde
 1505 Aspen Avenue
 Las Cruces, NM 88005
 Tel: 523-4360
 Email: sadiesv@yahoo.com

Member Orientation

a welcome for new members and
 a refresher for others

**Monday, January 10, 2011,
 10-11 a.m.**

**Good Samaritan, Social Center
 Small Conference Room**

**Las Cruces Convention Center
 680 E. University Avenue**

GRAND OPENING

Saturday, January 15, 2011
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

JOIN IN THE FUN

For an hour or two
 Staff the League’s Booth
 Register Voters

Contact Bonnie Burn - 526-0013

To Help Out!



Look Back Breakfast with the Legislators

Bonnie Burn, Reporting

This event is always “iffy.” Will the legislators be in town or in Santa Fe at caucus and committee meetings? This year was no exception. Although we had reservations for almost 50 people, the RSVPs came in slowly from the legislators. Of the 12 possible attendees, Representatives Mary Helen Garcia and Andy Nuñez were our guests.

Both legislators briefly introduced themselves and mentioned the committees on which they serve. To view this information, Google NM State Legislature and select the Member tab. Pictures and a listing of members will take you directly to their legislative page

The 2011 NM Legislative Session is 60 days, beginning on January 18 at noon and ending on March 19. The general discussion by each legislator focused on redistricting even though the 2010 census will not be validated until April 2011 after the session has ended.

Representative Garcia expressed an interest in moving into the chair position of the Voters and Election Committee on which she has been serving as vice-chair. She plans to sponsor an educational bill that would restore funding for the pre-kindergarten program. She is a member of the House Education Committee and advisor to the Legislative Education Study Committee. She will be following any additional legislation about education.

Representative Nuñez is concerned about regulatory reform. Because state agencies can promulgate

rules and regulations about their areas of responsibilities without legislative approval, he would like to see that changed so that legislators give approval first. His continuing interest is water and he chairs both the Water and Natural Resources Committee and the Agriculture and Water Resources committee. The largest problem for him is water adjudication, especially for the middle Rio Grande, the Albuquerque area.

There is concern about the result of the 2010 general election that leaves the House with a very slim Democratic majority: 37 Democrats and 33 Republicans. Also, the influence of the newly elected Republican governor, Susana Martinez, may be felt in the leadership of the legislature. The Senate members are not up for election until 2012.

Other issues that were discussed were the potential to no longer issue driver’s licenses to undocumented immigrants, ethics and transparency in government, budget, renewable energy, and small businesses. Representative Garcia mentioned an ethics bill she sponsored during the 30-day 2010 session that passed in the House but failed in the Senate. It supported establishing an Ethics Commission. Members of the audience directed Representative Nunez’s attention to the growth development in Juarez that could affect water supplied to Texas and Mexico by our bi-national water treaties. Coping with the budget deficit will take up a large portion of the legislators’ time. There is a suggestion that temporary borrowing from the permanent fund could be a bridge option until the economic situation improves. In answer to a question about the renewable energy industry, both legislators mentioned the importance of the transmission grid

(Continued on page 5)

Calendar *(Continued from page 1)*

January 15 (Saturday) - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. **Las Cruces Convention Center Grand Opening** - Visit the League’s booth (see p. 2, and ad p. 3)

January 20 (Thursday) - 1-4 p.m. or 5:30-8 p.m. **Reflections/Dialogue on the Immigration System: Las Cruces/Doña Ana County**, Las Cruces City Chambers. (Plan to attend one session)

Notable Dates:

January 9 - Carrie Chapman Catt birthday (1859-1947)

January 11 - Alice Paul birthday (1885-1977)

January 17 - Martin Luther King birthday. (1929-1968)

January 18 - NM Legislative Session Opens

Look Back (Continued from page 4)

and the costs involved. Small loans were suggested as a way to increase growth in employment and revenue among small businesses in New Mexico.

Kudos to the dietary staff of Good Sam's who fed us well. The omelet/waffle bar was delicious, and the buffet was a feast.

ACTION COMMITTEE

To participate in the Action Committee, the observer group of the NM State Legislature, log on to LWVNM.org and select the ACTION button.

Becoming a part of this listserv gives you up-to-date information about what is happening at the Legislature during the session and notification when it is time to call or email your legislators

Problems logging on?
Contact: Dick Mason,
(505) 736-0644

Redistricting New Mexico

Cheryl Haaker, Chair

Be sure to check your Winter *La Palabra* for the article on Redistricting. It's happening in 2011, whether we're ready for it or not. Fortunately, New Mexico's own Mary Wilson is coordinating the League's efforts at the National level. LWVUS will be stressing the "transparency" aspects of the redistricting process, as well as compliance with the Voting Rights Act. Bone up on the subject by checking out one or more of these online resources:

References:

LWVUS Redistricting page: Go to www.lwv.org, and select the "Projects" item on the blue horizontal navigation bar. It will expand into a list of projects; select "Developing an Action Agenda for Redistricting in 2011"

The Brennan Center: Redistricting 101, http://www.brennancenter.org/content/pages/redistricting_for_advocates#Redistricting-In-A-Box

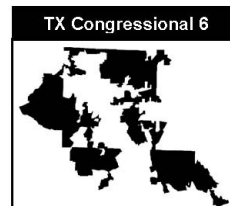
George Washington University's Redistricting Project, <http://elections.gwu.edu/Redistricting.html>

The ACLU: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Redistricting, But Were Afraid to Ask, <http://www.aclu.org/voting-rights/everything-you-always-wanted-know-about-redistricting-were-afraid-ask>.

"Great" Moments in Redistricting

From the Brennan Center: "Why Redistricting Matters" article: http://www.brennancenter.org/content/pages/why_redistricting_matters1

"Packing Partisans. In 1991, Texas Democrats crammed loyal Texas Republican voters into a district that spanned hundreds of miles, taking small slivers of land from five counties. By **packing pockets of Republican voters** into districts like the one on the right, Democrats could give themselves a better chance in the districts next door. In 1992, Republicans and Democrats each won about 49% of Texas' statewide vote ... but under the Democratic redistricting plan, Democrats won 70% of the state's Congressional races."



Webcasting of
 New Mexico Legislature

Google NM Legislature and follow the steps outlined on the right menu.

LegisLetter available on NM Legislative web site gives schedule of Committee Meetings.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
STAY ENGAGED!



League News



LWV/GLC Affordable Housing Committee Report

Vicki Simons and Christina Little, Co-Chairs

The committee met on November 9, 2010 with the Las Cruces Housing Authority (HACL) Staff, Tom Hassell, Executive Director, and Robbie Levey, Deputy Director (and LWV member), in our continuing study of how affordable housing is delivered in Doña Ana County.

The Housing Authority can be described as a quasi-governmental entity, but for audit purposes it is considered a component unit of the City of Las Cruces and a department of Doña Ana County. It does, however, have a separate budget, staff policies, etc. Federal housing programs have been around since the 1930s and early 1950s in Las Cruces for the purpose of providing affordable public housing. Originally there were no organizations prepared to administer these programs. Housing Authorities were created in the states to handle this task, and these could be city/county departments or stand-alone organizations with independent Boards of Commissioners. The Housing Authority was formed in Las Cruces in 1951 by resolution of the City Council.

The New Mexico municipal housing law sets forth how housing authorities are organized, the powers they have (can access state and federal funds, set up non-profits, right of eminent domain, right to issue bonds) and how they operate. The law mandates that a housing board of commissioners, five individuals from the community, are appointed by the mayor, and they elect a chair and vice-chair from among themselves. In Las Cruces, Mr. Hassell serves as the non-voting secretary. The housing board of commissioners hires the executive director who is responsible for hiring the staff and running the organization. Financial reports are generated by the internal finance staff. The housing board is responsible for fiscal and policy oversight.

In 1991 the Doña Ana County Housing Authority, which was run as a department of the county, got into HUD troubled status. At the recommendation of the HUD Field Office, a contract was entered into where the Doña Ana County Housing Authority (DACHA) would be overseen by HACL on a

contract basis. The County Commissioners now sit as the Board of Commissioners for the Doña Ana County Housing Authority.

The Housing Authority oversees the following federal programs:

- Public Housing – These are properties that are owned by HUD and managed by the Housing Authority. The people who live in them are subsidized by the federal government. These individuals never pay more than 30% of their income for rent (evaluated yearly). HACL has approximately 250 units in sites scattered around Las Cruces. With the permission of HUD, the County Housing Authority has eight remaining units of the original 27 in Anthony, and these will be sold.
- Section 8 New Construction – Though the funding source is different, these units operate like public housing. There are 101 units in Las Cruces, located in two locations.
- Section 8 Housing Voucher Program – This is a rental subsidy program. Private landlords make their units available to rent. They need to meet health and safety standards as well as abide by market rents. The tenant finds the unit on the open market and HUD subsidizes a portion of the rent and pays it directly to the landlord. The city has slightly more than 900 vouchers and the county has 600 vouchers. This is the biggest program that the Housing Authority runs. About 54% of the Housing Authority budget is to subsidize rent for the Section 8 program.

There are a number of smaller federal programs that the Housing Authority operates. These include:

- Shelter + Care – provides housing for chronically mentally ill.
- Veterans Administration Supportive Housing Program.
- Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing to help people who have been impacted by the economic recession.

- Section 8 Home Ownership Program – allows people who have Section 8 vouchers to use the subsidy to purchase homes rather than renting, primarily targeted to persons with disabilities.

At the October 2010 Board meeting, financial statements showed net assets of approximately \$14 million. Roughly \$9–\$10 million is land, buildings, etc. The annual budget is around \$8 million with 54% being spent on the Section 8 rental program.

Development of affordable housing is a relatively new role for the Housing Authority. However, the need for additional affordable housing is large. Needs assessments done by the City of Las Cruces indicate that there is a need for an additional 4,000 – 5,000 rental units and a similar number of home ownership opportunities.

In the 1990s, HUD had an Acquisition and Rehab Program, where Housing Authorities were encouraged to purchase homes. HUD helped with rehabilitation costs. About 112 scattered site homes were purchased. Two years later, HUD decided that these should be sold. The revenue generated by the sales could be used to develop other affordable housing projects. Systematically, the Housing Authority has been using these funds as leverage in order to build more affordable housing. So far, they have been able to create 3.5–4 units for every unit sold. Primarily, the Housing Authority has been able to do this by issuing tax credits to partners in the deals. Developments done by the Housing Authority and partners include:

- Montana Senior Village
- Stone Mountain Place (Boutz and Espina)
- Falcon Ridge Apartments in Hatch.

Communities sometimes have a negative reaction to affordable housing. They think about “projects” which is no longer an accurate model. The Housing Authority housing is attractive, well maintained, and comparable to the other housing in Las Cruces. The tenants who live in the units have to meet certain criteria, undergo background checks, etc.

Presently the Housing Authority is more interested in developing rental properties. One of the current projects is partnering with the Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico, a nonprofit organization based in Albuquerque, to build a 60-unit complex at 575 S. Alameda, the site of the old hospital and

recently city offices. This complex will cost \$6.5 million and most of the units will be available to people who are living at 60% or below median income, with 15% of the units set aside for individuals with supportive housing needs.

Education Study Committee

Bonnie Burn, Chair

The research component of this study is underway. First among the individuals with whom we met were NM Senator Steve Fischmann, member of the Senate Education Committee, and Al Kissling, who is an education advocate. Senator Fischmann focused his remarks on policy issues and the effectiveness of current programs. Mr. Kissling spoke more broadly of the effectiveness of pre-kindergarten programs and the current state of public education.

We had a very interesting meeting with Drs. Luis Reyes and Cristobal Rodriguez, professors, College of Education, NMSU, about educating teachers. Curriculum and student teaching requirements were reviewed. The three tier performance system that teachers pass through was discussed. Accreditation requirements for colleges of education, student testing (No Child Left Behind and now Race to the Top), student testing tied to teacher retention, and charter schools were covered.

Committee members met with Superintendent Stan Rounds and Dr. Steven Sánchez, Associate Superintendent, Division of Learning, Teaching and Research, Las Cruces Public Schools. Topics covered in the dialogue included curriculum, annual yearly progress, role of the teacher in education, and general questions about the school system.

Additionally, members are reading articles and books that will form a bibliography of background material for the study.

Concurrently, LWVUS has begun its study of the federal role in education. Some of us have joined its email listserv and are keeping up with the exchange

(Continued on page 8)

Education Study *(Continued from page 7)*

of information and discussion among members of that committee. The LWVUS study group has invited LWVGLC and several other local Leagues to participate in a pilot program. In anticipation of reaching consensus, the local Leagues will be given an opportunity to review and comment on the papers and consensus questions prepared by the study committee before they are released for consensus.

Education is complex. A number of reforms are being tried in an effort to ensure that the United States has an educated population to carry out the responsibilities of citizenship and to have a job in the workforce needed in a global economy.

New Mexico Government Restructuring Task Force

Jody Larson, Action/Advocacy Director, LWVSFC

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico (LWVNM) has been observing these meetings since they began in April, 2010. The Task Force met on November 22-23. The minutes of the meeting have not been posted on the NM Legislative web site, and date for a December meeting has not been scheduled even though the recommendations are due by December 31.

Highlights of the report prepared by Jody Larson for the November 22 meeting are presented here. Leslie Porter of the Legislative Council Service (LCS) reported results from the State Government Efficiencies and Effectiveness Survey. Over 900 state employees responded for a response rate of 4.5%. Three critical needs were identified: better technology and equipment, better training, and more decision-making authority on the front lines. While many respondents are experiencing workload overload, they still feel their agencies serve the public well. The top areas identified for possible savings were travel, staffing levels, overly bureaucratic processes and procedures, and technology. Low employee morale and not enough staff were the top responses of "examples of problems that make my agency/department limp along when it should be flying." By far the biggest response to the most important thing employees would do to restructure their agency/department was to address staffing/workload. Factors causing poor morale included worries about being laid off, corruption, and apathy on the part of management.

The afternoon session on the 22nd was devoted to two topics, higher education costs savings and efficiencies for two- and four- year institutions and proposed legislation and final report recommendations.

The total of all budgets for higher education is currently \$725 million. A 7% cut for higher education would amount to \$49 million; to date recommendations of the Task Force result only in \$23.6 million. There are 26 two-year and seven four-year institutions. Raising tuition fees, the funding formula for high education, and impact of changed budgets on accreditation, programs and finances were mentioned in the dialogue. Community colleges' education impact on jobs was emphasized in the discussion.

A number of bills have been created by Legislative Council Service at the request of task force members. These were reviewed and comments made. Details about these are available on the NM legislative web site: type in Government Restructuring Task Force in the Search box. There was discussion about eliminating the Public Regulatory Commission. This action can only be done by constitutional amendment. Making per diem and mileage rates consistent with state employees' rates was raised. This action would remove current variations for board and commission members and would apply to school boards. Minimum student membership for a school district was brought up. During public comment it was noted that 48 of New Mexico's 89 school districts have less than 1,000 students, with 16 having less than 200.

Finally, the executive summary of the final report was discussed. Task force members sought to have "big ideas" and highlights stressed in the executive summary, including charts that reveal the complexity of governmental structure. Three parts were suggested: what was done, how it was done, and the results.

During the final public comments, Representative Varela specifically requested comments from the League. Jody Larson responded that, while the League had observers at every meeting, observers do not comment during meetings, but on behalf of the League she could commend the Task Force on its transparency: meeting notices, materials, and broadcasts.

LEAGUE OBSERVER REPORTS

The League's Observer Corps enables greater coverage and information gathering, can provide early warning of upcoming issues of concern, can increase League's visibility, and can assist in networking with other groups. We appreciate the reports that are submitted by Observers. Following the League practice of publishing nonpartisan, objective reports, the information submitted may be edited for content and brevity.

The South Central Recycling Partnership, E-Recycling Event, December 9, 2010 - Al McBrayer, Reporting

The South Central Recycling Partnership (SCRaP), had its last 2010 meeting on December 9. We summed up a very productive year by going over a few of the highlights and some of the things that need more work. Truly, the biggest success was the adoption of curbside recycling in Las Cruces. Major recognition Las Cruces received at the Recycle Stakeholder's Convention, the State Fair booth, Farmer's Market presence, Earth Day and a second successful Electronics Recycling Event were other major accomplishments.

Curbside recycling begins after an educational campaign and purchases of new trucks and collection cans by the contractor, Friedman Recycling. The contract will start after January 1, with the actual curbside collection starting in April. This allows Friedman time to implement its advertizing proposal and demonstrate proper recycling etiquette to the public.

Planning for Earth Day 2011 will coincide with curbside implementation in April. The focus will be on "Household Hazardous Waste/Spring Cleanup". Information describing what exactly household hazardous waste is and why it should be disposed of carefully is planned for display at the booth. The South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA) and SCRaP also are planning to launch a "County Outreach Program" for household hazardous waste and electronic recycling. Hopefully, the program will include three events held in Las Cruces, Anthony and Hatch. Places and dates are still in the planning stage. It is hoped that reaching out to county locations will increase recycling awareness and participation in recycling programs.

In December, the New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC) awarded nearly \$1 million to fund regional recycling in Torrance County, Otero County and the City of Deming. This financial investment is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Program. The monies will support the development of recycling infrastructure using a "hub and spoke" model, where a centralized processing facility (hub) provides services to several regionally appropriate collection programs (spokes). This system is designed to minimize capital and operating expenses, while maximizing financial, environmental and societal benefits of recycling. It is exciting to see recycling programs expand throughout the state as they have expanded in Doña Ana County.

The first meeting of the new year will be a tour of Friedman Recycling in El Paso, the company that now provides recycling service in Las Cruces. Challenges and opportunities for next year include curbing illegal dumping, seeking funding for sustainability, and using the Farmer's Market as an information venue..

The meeting ended with a goodbye to one of our valued members, Deb Bale. She, her husband and soon-to-be new baby, are moving back to Colorado. Her contribution to the group will be missed.

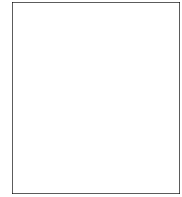
NMSU Board of Regents Meeting, December 10, 2010 - John Lazuruk, Observer

The Board of Regents approved the appointment of the Interim Director/Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Tom Bagwell, and the financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010. The university's total assets were \$771.9 million while the liabilities were \$250.0 million. Drs. Hanley and Arterburn presented information on the university's biomedical research that included work on developing treatments for dengue fever and breast cancer. The Teaching Academy described a program that focuses on improving department head management skills. Detailed minutes of the meeting will be available after the next Board meeting on January 31, 2011 on the University Website: <http://www.nmsu.edu/boardofregents/minutes.html>. The minutes from the October 29, 2010 meeting were approved, but haven't been posted yet.



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FIRST CLASS

January 2011
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JOIN THE LEAGUE TODAY

Bring a friend with you!

Membership: Individual (\$50), 2nd Household Member (\$25)
 Join after November 1 pay half dues. Dues renew on May 1.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

\$ _____ Contributions to the League
 Make Check payable to LWV of Greater Las Cruces

\$ _____ Contribution to the Education Fund (Tax Deductible)
 Make check payable to League of Women Voters

All checks should be mailed to
 League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces
 P.O. Box 8322, Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322



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- Thank You*

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces, 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.