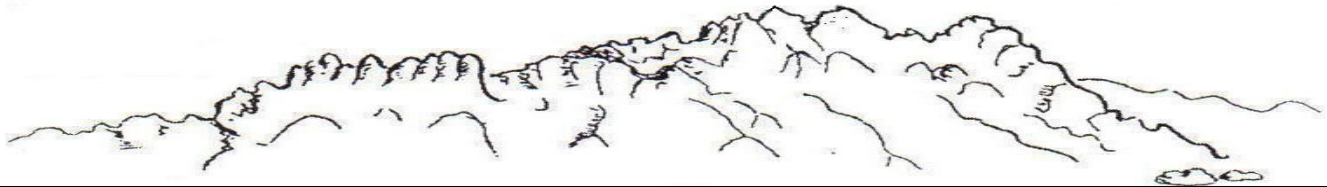


The VOTER

League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
Web Site: www.lwvglc.org
September 2010



Lunch With a Leader - September 13 2010

Good Samaritan Society, Creative Arts Room,
3011 Buena Vida Circle

2010 ELECTION UPDATE

Lynn J. Ellins, Doña Ana County Clerk



While there have been some changes made to the state's election law since the 2008 general election, none of them are major enough so that voters will detect any significant differences in how they will cast their votes in 2010, either by mail or in person. Most of the changes deal with county clerk administrative procedures which will go largely unnoticed by the outside world.

So, I will take this opportunity to tell you about a proposal being sponsored by all 33 county clerks in the state that will dramatically change the way that voters will go to the polls on future election days: ***election day vote centers.***

An "election day vote center" is a location serving as a polling place at which any registered voter may vote regardless of the precinct in which the voter is registered. As is now the case at existing early voting locations, ballots will be printed that coincide with the precinct in which the voter is registered, containing only the names of candidates for whom the voter is entitled to vote.

And as is now the case at existing early voting locations, each election day vote center will have a computer with a secure electronic connection ("on-line") to access the state-wide voter registration data base maintained at the county clerk's office. In addition, each election day vote center will have immediate access to all voting information recorded in computers at all other election day vote centers in the county.

In other words, when an elector casts his or her vote at any election day vote center, it is immediately recorded in the county clerk's

(Continued on page 4)

CALL TO ACTION



How important is curbside recycling to you?

PUBLIC MEETING
Monday, August 30, 6 p.m.
Joint Utilities Center
680 Motel Blvd, Room #225
(This is not the Doña Ana Government Center)

If you want to see it happen in Las Cruces, **NOW** is the time to act.

1. Attend the **PUBLIC MEETING**
2. Attend your **City Council District meeting**---scheduled at various times and places-- and voice your strong support for curbside recycling.
3. **Watch the City Council agendas** for action on this issue. **Attend and speak in favor of curbside recycling.**



State Offices & State Representatives

Candidates' Forum

September 22, 2010
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Munson Senior Center
975 S. Mesquite St., Las Cruces

The VOTER

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**The League of Women Voters of
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Director, Membership
Susan Schmutge

Director, Voter Services
Erika Graf-Webster

Nominating Committee
Donna Tate, Chair
Jane Carter, Elected Member

Director, Public Relations
Roberta Gran

Director, Special Projects
Dolores Archuleta

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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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Bonnie Burn - 526-0013
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President's Message

We all remember the summer of 2009 when the focus was on health care reform, and we worked diligently to bring about reform. The summer of 2010 is remembered as the Celebration of Women Winning the Vote and voter services activities as the election season moves toward the November 2 General Election. My column last month focused on the celebration. More details are given on pp. 6 and 7. Voter service activities are mentioned on p. 5. Please note the ad for our first candidates' forum on September 22, p. 1.



I'm pleased to report that our studies, Affordable Housing and Education, are off to good starts. Vicki Simons reports on the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority Town Hall, p. 8. This is the first article that begins the education of members about affordable housing. State Senator Steve Fischmann, Senate Education Committee, and Al Kissling met informally with members of the Education Committee to discuss their views about educational needs in New Mexico. That committee also is reading and posting on the League's web site, www.lwvglc.org, a number of documents that are of interest and educational. Give a look!

Throughout this issue there will be references to **curbside recycling**, an issue on which the League has had a position since 1999. I hope you were able to attend the public meeting on **Monday, August 30**.

We continue to keep our ears tuned for updates on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act as its reforms take shape in the State of New Mexico. Health Action New Mexico is planning a public forum on August 31, 6-8 p.m., Doña Ana County Commission Chambers, Government Center. I hope you will plan to attend.

Lynn Ellins, our Lunch with a Leader speaker, is no stranger to the League. Before becoming Doña Ana County Clerk, he served as the supervisor of the Bureau of Elections. He has talked with us before and worked with the League on voting issues.

League Lowdown topic this month is the [legislative] Action Committee, League of Women Voters of New Mexico. This is a state League committee, but relies heavily on input and representation from all local Leagues. Come listen to Vicki Simons describe the work and how to become involved with this committee. During the 60 and 90-day NM Legislative Sessions, the work of this committee is vital. (See calendar, p. 12 for details about the **League Lowdown** meeting).

Bonnie Burn

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.

LOOK BACK: July Lunch with a Leader

Bonnie Burn, Reporting

As I write this today, we've experienced a torrential rain storm, and it reminded me of Gary Esslinger's presentation about managing water in the Elephant Butte/Caballo reservoirs. As Treasurer-Manager of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID), he described some of the conditions "up stream" that affect us "down stream," even though we may have had no rain. Using data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) weather system, decisions are made about when to evacuate, which dam gates to close or open, and when to shut down irrigation water because enough storm water is arriving to fulfill irrigation needs. Although the system is complex, it was unable to prevent the wash-out in Hatch several years ago. Closer attention is now being paid and improvements have been installed to help identify immediate needs more quickly. For example, pressure sensitive pads installed in creek beds record flowrate. This acts like an early alert system so that measures can be taken to prevent an "up stream" flow from causing significant damage "down stream." Although not perfect, it is an additional tool to help prevent disasters.

A few statistics about the EBID irrigation system:

- It is a gravity-flow water system with almost 600 miles of canals, laterals, drains, and wasteways along a 110 mile stretch of the Rio Grande.
- Water is delivered to 90,640 acres of farmland below Caballo Reservoir
- 95% of water is derived from Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico snowmelt and rainfall run-offs.
- Water not used for irrigation is returned by canals to the river for reuse down-stream.
- An irrigation season lasts about 240 growing days.

A surprise for the audience was Esslinger's introduction of a hydropower energy system that he and his team recently developed. Here, gravity flow water is being used to generate about 50 kW (50,000 watts), enough energy to power approximately 50 to 60 homes during the 240 day irrigation season. "EBID is fabricating low-cost, efficient turbines to support low-head energy production, utilizing generic brand generators and products that can be purchased off the shelf," Esslinger told the audience. He then presented cost comparison charts that showed the difference between a commercial manufactured device and high flow pump (approximately \$120,000 and \$50,000, respectively) and the EBID Fabrication Design (\$15,000).



Implementing the process is not without challenges (e.g., licensing and tying into the electrical grid); however, this form of hydropower is promising. EBID will continue its development.

Welcome



New Members

Rita Caccamise
5347 Hunter Court
Las Cruces, NM 88011
Tel: 521-3289
Email: ritacac@comcast.net

Albert D. Kissling
586 Canyon Point Road
Las Cruces, NM 88011
Tel: 521-0032
Email: alkissling@gmail.com



VOTER REGISTRARS

Member volunteers needed to register voters

When: Fall

Time: To be determined

Hours: To be arranged

Contact Tom Schmugge
522-4546 or tschmugge@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

John Ameriks, M.D.
Joseph P. Camunez, DDS
Citizens Bank
Donald and Winifred Dresp
Adrian and Jackie Edwards
First New Mexico Bank
Lilley Law Offices
Tom Tate
Zia Engineering & Environmental Consultants

Thank You

2010 Election Update *(Continued from page 1)*

office and at all other election day vote centers, thus preventing any voter from attempting to vote more than once.

What are the advantages of vote centers? Two major ones.

First, provisional ballots will become almost unnecessary. Provisional ballots have always been problematic regarding candidates running in districts because voters voting provisionally in the wrong districts will not have votes counted for those candidates. On the other hand, provisional ballot votes cast for county or state-wide candidates are always counted. By eliminating the need for provisional ballots, voters will never have any of their votes ruled out because they will only vote for candidates appearing on the ballot that actually represent them. Now, every vote cast will be counted.

In addition, once relieved of the responsibility for tabulating provisional ballots, the county canvass board will conclude its work in significantly less time. And without the need for provisional ballots, there should be little if any concern by members of the public about whether their votes have been counted.

Second advantage is cost. The Clerk's office ran an estimate of how much less it would cost the county ("taxpayers") if vote centers were employed.

Several models were used, but the most reasonable was a 36 vote center model that most efficiently served the county's municipalities and rural areas. A 36 vote center comparison was made to the cost of running election precincts for all 115 precincts. The results:

- Cost to the county for operating 115 election day precincts: \$104,306.
- Cost to the county operating 36 election day vote centers: \$69,125.

What are the disadvantages? Obviously, the primary disadvantage is that some voters will travel farther on election day to cast their votes. On the other hand, many voters may find it easier and more convenient to vote at vote centers closer to their place of work, and not be concerned about getting to the polls at seven in the morning, or after work before they close at seven in the evening. And for those for whom travel does present a problem, absentee voting by mail will remain available.

The Bureau of Elections has a new Supervisor, Trey LaFleur. Trey joined the Bureau as a temporary employee in March of this year and immediately impressed everyone with his quick grasp of election law and his easy way of dealing with fellow workers. He is a 2009 graduate of NMSU with a BA in Government. Since his temporary appointment as supervisor in July, he has already impressed those around him with his ability to get the job done. Trey may be reached at 525-6134.

"Where's the Precinct"

Marnie Leverett, Chair, Election Process/Voter Turnout Committee

Recently the League received an email message asking why voters do not turn out for elections. Here is a bit of history of what the League's voting trends committee discovered over the years and what we tried our darndest to rectify.

About ten years ago, the League got together with the Department of Government at New Mexico State University (NMSU), and with the department's help we did a telephone survey of a sampling of registered voters who did NOT vote in the most recent election. The questions concerned such

things as identifying reasons that kept them from the polls on election day. The reason most often stated in the responses was that the voters did not know where they were supposed to go to vote. A big part of the problem is that each kind of election (county, municipal and school) has the legal right to determine where each precinct for its election will be. There are a lot of residents in the county who actually have three voting sites—one for each kind of election. The voters don't remember that; they only remember where they voted last year.

(Continued on page 5)

Where's The Precinct *(Continued from page 4)*

A series of meetings with school board, county commission and city council representatives were held by the League to get them to agree to pick the same location for all precincts in all elections. They agreed that it was a good idea, but there was no follow through.

The League again arranged a meeting of the City Clerk, County Clerk and the public relations person from the schools. Again, self-interests precluded any progress on consolidation of precincts.

Three years ago, the League conducted a voter satisfaction survey. Again, the biggest complaint was that voters did not know where they were supposed to vote. Although voting sites had been published in both local newspapers, voters did not seem to read them. The tendency appeared to be to think about voting sites only when election day arrived. The voter then went to wherever they remembered having voted the last time.

The League has studied the state election law that states all three elective bodies can determine where they want their elections held. A few years ago, legislation to combine the municipal and school elections was introduced during the legislative session but the legislators failed to act on it.

Ideally, registered voters should call the Bureau of Elections (647-7200) before election day to determine their correct voting places. During a general election day, the League, in the past few years, has provided a telephone service where voters who are unable to get through to the Bureau of Elections to find out their polling places can call the League telephone number. League members access a database provided by the County Clerk to find the correct voting place for the caller. The County clerk, Lynn Ellins, recognizes this as a useful resource and has been helpful in the past few years in finding a good data base to be available to the League on election day. He also makes sure that election judges, at their precincts on election day, have the right phone numbers to give to potential voters who find themselves in the wrong voting place.

(Note: Vote Centers may be the solution to this problem.)

Voter Services Update

Erika Graf-Webster, Director

Voter Services activities are proceeding according to plan.

Tom Schmugge has scheduled a voter registration session for late August, and is planning two or three more sessions in September.

The *Voters' Guide* effort, led by Dale Yeo, is slightly ahead of schedule. All the candidates, including a write-in candidate for Sheriff, have been identified and their contact information has been obtained. The questions for the candidates that will be listed in the *Voters' Guide* have been developed and approved by the Board. The Board also approved the letter and the instructions that will be sent to each candidate in early September, along with the questions. The development of the actual text of the *Voters' Guide*, particularly the section that explains where and when to vote, has begun, based on templates from past years.

Considerable progress has been made in the candidate forums activity, led by Nancy Phillips. Invitation letters for the forum for the state offices and state representatives, to be held on September 22, were sent out in early August, and several candidates have already responded affirmatively. The invitation letters for the local forum, to be held on October 20, were sent out on August 19. Invitation letters to the two candidates for U.S. Congress were prepared and mailed in June. However, we have had no definitive response to date. In addition, the Voter Services Committee decided (and the Board approved) that we would invite the Governor and Lt. Governor candidates to a forum in Las Cruces. Contact has been made with their campaign directors/schedulers, and formal invitation letters were sent in early August. Though we have not had firm responses, we have been told that the two campaigns are in favor of coming to a forum in Las Cruces, but they need to coordinate a date between them. All supplies necessary for the forums, as well as the needed potential helpers, have been identified, so we are set to proceed with the forums.

*(Note: Mark your calendar for September 22 and October 20 for candidates' forums at Munson Senior Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m. The *Voters' Guide* is scheduled to be published*



A Celebration: Women Win The Vote

90th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the right to VOTE



Modern Suffragists plan the celebration.



Women Elected to Office: Senator Mary Kay Papan, Senator Mary Jane Garcia, Janice Arnold-Jones, and Linda Bartelsmeyer. Moderator: Dolores Archuleta

THE CELEBRATION IS OVER! Yes, 170 ticket were sold, 200 programs were printed, the sashes, banners, and flags were in place, and women and men attended the showing of two films and a Saturday morning session to celebrate 90 years of voting for women..

Dr. Jo Tice Bloom probably did not realize what energy she was releasing when she met with Deanise Marta, president, AAUW, and Bonnie Burn, president, League of Women Voters (LWV) and introduced the idea of having a community organized celebration of this milestone event.

Together, AAUW and LWV were able to identify and assemble a 17-member Community Organizing Committee that began work on May 5 and met every two weeks until August when the meetings became weekly as the events scheduled for August 27 and 28 drew near. The actual ratification of the 19th Amendment was August 26, 1920; however, we believed people would enjoy the celebration more if the event was scheduled over a weekend. This was not a fund raiser, and ticket sales paid for most of the expenses. There were sponsored tickets for NMSU students.



Engaging the First Time Voter: Carmela Myers, Wanda Mattiace, and Marci Bayer. Moderator: Deanise Marta



Prize Winners

The event kicked off with a showing of the movie, "Iron Jawed Angels," a made for HBO-movie, that carefully combines a good representation of historical facts with modern day performances by Hilary Swank as Alice Paul and Angelica Huston as Carrie Chapman Catt. All of us, whether first time or multiple-time viewers, again felt the emotional experience of the women's struggle and eventual success in achieving the vote.

To set the mood for Saturday’s session, participants received yellow roses, signifying a “yes” vote for enfranchisement, and committee members wore “suffragist white” with sashes of purple (justice), white (purity), and gold (courage). Some even wore hats that replicated the style of the period. Thanks to Marjorie Burr and Florence Hamilton, banners proclaiming “Women Win the Vote” hung from the head tables. Flags carried by The National Woman’s Party headed by Alice Paul were on display.

The ceremonies opened with the presentation of colors by the United Military Women of the SouthWest who displayed the U.S., New Mexico, and the Suffragist flags. A proclamation from the Las Cruces City Council was read by Dolores Archuleta. A statement was read by Dara Parker from Senator Bingaman, by Xochitl Torres from Senator Udall, and by Andrea Flores from Congressman Teague.

The members of the Women Elected to Office panel discussed their individual backgrounds and experiences. They answered questions about the role of lobbyists, who were portrayed as beneficial to educating about both sides of issues. No one supported term limits because of the learning curve involved with how governments work.

Those on the Engaging the Voter panel spoke to a variety of issues related to ensuring that your vote is counted, rebutting the myth that voter fraud is widespread, and ways to encourage voting.

Interspersed with the panels were time-outs for door prize drawings, 24 in all. Some of the winners are pictured in the lower left photos, p. 6.

“Mrs. Blatch and the Suffrage Movement” was a live portrayal of the suffrage movement from the viewpoint of a working girl completed the morning’s program.

The keynote speaker after lunch was U.S. Federal Magistrate Judge Carmen Garza who spoke about her experience in selecting law as her profession and the challenges she meets as a judge involved with immigration cases.

The program activities were over, **BUT** for those participants who had energy to continue there was a showing of the PBS documentary, “One Woman, One Vote.” Narrated by Susan Sarandon, it depicts the complete history of the woman’s suffrage movement (1848-1920).

Kudos to the members of the Community Organizing Committee who made this event memorable. Kudos to the members of the community who made it a success!



“Mrs. Blatch and Women’s Suffrage Movement”
Bonnie Eisenberg, Author, Deanise Marta, and
Bonnie Schranz, Director



The Banner made by
Florence Hamilton and Marjorie Burr



Keynote Speaker: U.S.
Federal Magistrate Judge
Carman Garza,

NEW MEXICO MORTGAGE FINANCE AUTHORITY TOWN HALL

August 5, 2010, Las Cruces City Hall - Vicki Simons, Co-Chair, Affordable Housing Study

The New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA) is presenting a series of town hall meetings around the state to explain to the public what it is that they do. Most New Mexicans have never heard of this important agency. Several members of the League's Affordable Housing Committee attended the meeting on Friday, August 5 at City Hall to learn more about the agency that is the primary agency dealing with financing of housing in the state. MFA officials, state legislators, city officials and representatives from other communities in southern New Mexico were present.

MFA was set up by the New Mexico Legislature in the 1970s as a quasi-governmental entity to provide financing for housing assistance and related services for low-to-moderate income New Mexicans. Their programs include assistance for agencies that aid homeless individuals and families, development subsidies for builders of affordable rental and for-sale homes, and financial assistance and below-market rate mortgages for first-time home buyers. Access to quality, affordable housing is provided through a statewide network of lenders, realtors, non-profit housing organizations and local governments.

The MFA officials present, Jay Czar, Executive Director, and Erin Quinn, Senior Policy and Program Advisor, talked about the concepts of the organization with emphasis on programs for rural

parts of the state. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested by the agency in low-income housing projects, both rental and owner-purchase, in the state, many in southern New Mexico. Audience members asked questions and made comments concerning these projects, the need for housing, economic conditions affecting housing and foreclosures. While foreclosure rates in the state haven't been as bad as in many parts of the nation, it is estimated that 3% of mortgage loans in the state are in foreclosure and 12% of mortgages are sub-prime loans in New Mexico.

Housing is an area that received money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. MFA received \$95 million, all of which has been used for various programs including weatherization and tax credit assistance programs. This resulted in 1,000 units being built or preserved and over 1,000 jobs, 315 of which are permanent.

Other members of the audience directly involved in housing agencies had technical questions to which the MFA officials responded. There are many challenges in providing housing, and the League's Affordable Housing Committee will continue to attend informative meetings such as this with the goal of being able to educate League members in the coming year.



CURBSIDE RECYCLING – COMING TO LAS CRUCES?

Suzanne Michaels, Suzanne Michaels Communications

For 100,000 city residents, curbside recycling is within reach. What's changed to make **CURBSIDE** possible for Las Cruces?

- Recycling was made **EASIER** by adopting single stream recycling (no more separating) at drop-off recycling sites in the city and county last February. Drop-off bins are available at six commercial sites, 17 schools, and eight Community Collection Centers in the County.
- A recycling processor, Friedman Recycling, with 32 years of recycling experience and facilities in El Paso, Phoenix, and Tucson is available.
- The Las Cruces population supports recycling. The Las Cruces Public School's recycling

program grew from six to seventeen schools in one year. Recycling drop-off bins are filled every day. Tonnage grew from 15 to 80 tons per week when single stream was adopted.

The next step is curbside recycling. The current cost to Las Cruces residents for trash is \$15.10, \$3.09 goes toward funding the current drop-off recycling program. Seniors get a break, paying only \$11.29 monthly, and none of the payment goes toward recycling. **A program of every-other-week curbside recycling is being considered.**

Option 1: The average residential bill would be increased by \$1.89, bringing the total fee to \$16.99

(Continued on page 11)

New Mexico

Government Restructuring Task Force

Observers, Kathy Campbell, President, LWVNM
Jody Larson, Action/Advocacy Director, LWVSFC

Since its initial meeting in April, articles following the progress of this task force have appeared regularly beginning with the May issue of The VOTER. This 17 member task force was convened when NM House Bill 237 was passed. Its charge is to study the resources of the state's agencies' programs, services, funding, policies, and the public need served by them. Findings and recommendations must be made to the Governor and Legislature by December 1, 2010.

The fifth meeting of the Task Force was held on August 19-20. Meeting materials should be posted at the NM Legislative website, www.nmlegis.gov.

The observer reports cover the two-day session. Two questions were being asked:

1. What are the essential services state government should provide—best services and greatest efficiencies.
2. The purpose of restructuring—organizational, administrative/functional, financial and operational.

A number of proposals, identified with an alphabetic letter, were made for consolidation of operation. For example, Proposal B suggests establishing a central office for administrative functions (purchasing, budget, personnel, accounting, etc.).

Of particular interest to the Las Cruces League is Proposal F, to close or consolidate seven magistrate courts. Art Pepin, Director of Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and NM Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Daniels presented in the afternoon of the first day. Pointing out the harm that has already been done to the judicial branch because of budget cuts, a plea was made for more funding to improve effectiveness and efficiency in the courts. The additional funding would cover the Odyssey Case Management System, a new system for electronic payments by credit card and bank transfer, a judicial video system expansion, and others.

Pepin pointed out that closings are not as cost effective as they might seem. He recommended

closing Questa and Anthony courts because they have small caseloads that may be absorbed by nearby courts. However, other courts have large enough caseloads to increase the number of judges and/or courtrooms. Some courts are located too far away from nearby cities (e.g., Charma to Española) for level of service to be maintained. Cutting the current compensation for magistrate judges led to no conclusion about whether better or less qualified people would be attracted to the court.

Proposal F was left for further discussion after additional input from the courts.

The second issue of interest to our local League is the proposal about education. Proposals for consolidating the Public Education Department (PED) and Higher Education Department (HED) were discussed. Linking teacher evaluation to student growth was raised as part of the state's Race to the Top application. The Carruthers report also recommended reducing the number of school districts. Thirty five of the existing 89 districts have fewer than 500 students, and seven have fewer than 100. Other suggestions included redistricting the school districts. "Right-sizing" school districts should provide more resources for enhanced educational programs; however issues of existing debt and assets have to be considered. Administrative consolidation or beefing up the Regional Education Cooperatives to provide administrative services in addition to their other current services was part of the discussion.

A summary of directions to the staff:

1. About six bills are being drafted for consolidation of cabinet departments.
2. More work on consolidating parts of departments or functions; specifically mentioned were the consolidation of Medicaid waiver programs, of the Interagency Benefits Advisory Committee (IBAC), of attorneys and of hearings.
3. There was a request for cost comparisons for already privatized functions.
4. Use incentives to encourage consolidation of school districts.
5. Move education finance to Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)
6. Evaluate teacher evaluation models from other states.

Next Meeting: September 16-17, Santa Fe, Round House, Room 322.

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.

South Central Solid Waste Authority, August 19, 2010 - Marjorie Burr, Observer

Flow Control

South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA), as a regional body, "controls" the solid waste generated in Doña Ana County, pursuant to a U.S. Supreme Court decision a few years ago stating that local governments control the disposal of solid waste within their boundaries. SCSWA does not now "control" the collection and recycling or disposal of all the solid waste in the county. Although all solid waste collected in the City of Las Cruces is now hauled by SCSWA and recycled or transferred to the Corralitos landfill, the county is a different story. SCSWA operates transfer stations throughout the county and has recently moved to collect fees for their use by residents. Much of the residential and commercial collection is done by private operators. These businesses charge individual customers for collecting their trash and then pay a landfill operator to deposit it there. In Doña Ana County, the choices are two: Corralitos landfill west of Las Cruces operated by SCSWA and Camino Real landfill near Sunland Park in southern Doña Ana County. With a recent decision by the City of El Paso not to use the Camino Real landfill, thus withdrawing about 90 percent of its business, the future of this landfill is unknown. Until this is decided (probably in a court case in the State of Texas or in the U.S. Supreme Court as incident to interstate commerce), a flow control plan cannot be developed by SCSWA. Until the flow control plan is adopted, any ordinance that would rationalize solid waste service county-wide is not possible. So, at present, county residents pay widely divergent fees to haulers to dispose of their trash.

Curbside Recycling

The possibility for curbside recycling in Las Cruces is stronger than it has ever been before (see article by Suzanne Michaels, p. 8 in this *VOTER*). The

process will involve a lot of public input. The process will start with a public information meeting conducted by the Joint Utilities Board on Monday, August 30, at 6:00 p.m. at the Joint Utilities Center, 680 Motel Blvd, Board Room #225. The issue will be discussed by city councilors with their constituents in district meetings in early September. Then the City Council will act on the question, probably in late September, surely sometime this fall. SCSWA is ready to institute curbside recycling soon after approval.

The South Central Recycling Partnership, August 12, 2010 - Allen McBrayer, Observer

Curbside Recycling is still the biggest thing on everyone's mind these days. The City Council is seriously considering curbside recycling, but there are still some issues that are undecided. To that end, there will be a public information meeting to answer questions from residents at the Joint Utilities Center, 680 Motel Blvd, Board Room #225, on Monday, August 30, at 6:00 pm. If you can make it, bring your questions and support curbside recycling. As early as September, the City Council will vote on formal recommendations from this meeting.

The new South Central Solid Waste Authority web site is now live!! Please check out: www.TheScrappyPages.com. The site is full of up-to-date, interesting information concerning recycling and upcoming activities.

Las Cruces has been selected by the New Mexico Recycling Coalition to start off America Recycles Month this November. Last year, Las Cruces held our very successful "E-Cycle Event" on November 15, America Recycles Day. This year, they are honoring our city by kicking off America Recycles Month in Las Cruces and sponsoring our "Get Caught Recycling" program with prizes and support. Las Cruces is generating some positive attention in the state these days.

SCRaP *(Continued from page 10)*

The Southern New Mexico State Fair is coming up on September 29 and 30 and October 1, 2, and 3. SCRaP is investigating the possibility of an information booth at the Fair with some recycling demonstration materials on display. If you are out there, please stop by and check us out. SCRaP is also planning an information booth at the Farmer's Market in the downtown mall, on September 25. Again, please come out. It will be fun.

And most of all, **thank you for recycling.**

(Note: Have you tried Target's bottle recycling program? Bag it and leave it at the service desk)

Las Cruces Public School Board Meeting, August 17, 2010 - Nancy Phillips, Observer

All Board members were in attendance. President Connie Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Board held a closed meeting just prior to this one for the purpose of the end-of-year evaluation of Superintendent Rounds. No action was taken.

A video on the Las Cruces Public Schools Summer Program was shown. This program was considered an "extended school year" to serve students ages three through fifth grade to bring them up to speed for their age level. Classes in all subjects were taught in English one week and in Spanish the next. Roughly half of the 300 students were from migrant worker families, with the remainder being under-achieving. Two hot meals were served daily, including an afternoon snack. The program was considered a success, academically and nutritionally. At Santa Teresa High School a similar program was held for designated students from all other high schools in the district. There were 417 students in this program.

Superintendent Rounds reported that Governor Richardson has designated \$2.5 million in stimulus funds for all New Mexico districts to offset insurance premiums for all teachers and staff in the state. This will make up for the previous paycheck reductions affecting all school employees.

Rounds also reported that several schools in the district showed slow improvement in reading and math, ranging from less than 1% up to 25% (Santa Teresa High School).

The Board passed several resolutions unanimously, including securing financing for the Early College High School at Doña Ana Community College, a \$65 million bond issue with a consistent tax rate over the next 15 years, same oversight of charter school budgets as is done for all other schools in the district, and amendments to the Medicaid laws.

An upcoming news release requesting applicants from the community to serve on the Audit Committee for the district will be published on the district's website, www.lcps.k12.nm.us, and in local newspapers.

An extensive list of construction projects in the district was reported, with no significant delays.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Curbside Recycling *(Continued from page 8)*

per month. Seniors would pay for recycling, \$4.98, bringing their monthly bill to \$16.27.

OPTION TWO: There would be an across-the-board increase of \$2.59 for every residence, bringing the average residential bill to \$17.69, and the bill for seniors to \$13.88 per month.

On Monday, August 30, 6:00 p.m., Joint Utilities Center, 680 North Motel Blvd., Board Room #225, a public information meeting will be held for residents. In September, the City Council will vote on which option to formally recommend.

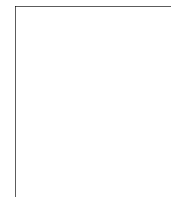
"The issue," says Patrick Peck, Director of the South Central Solid Waste Authority, "...is not whether we're running out of landfill space. The issue is what kind of impact do we want to have on our region? Based on the enormous participation we have with drop-off recycling, our always full drop-off bins and the number of residents asking for curbside... this community wants curbside, which will dramatically increase our recycling rate. It's the best way we have locally to greatly reduce our solid waste environmental impact."



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FIRST CLASS

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CALENDAR

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

September 2 (Thursday) - 1:00 p.m., **Affordable Housing Committee Meeting**, United Way of Southwest NM, 110 N. Water Street, Contact: Vicki Simons (522-4813 or vrsimons@comcast.net) or Christina Little (373-1882 or Christina.s.little@gmail.com)

September 6 (Monday) - **LABOR DAY**

September 7 (Tuesday) - **Deadline for Reservations for Lunch with a Leader.** RSVP Sharon Burbano (526-2860 or Email: sburbano@aol.com). **Reservations are required.**

September 13 (Monday) 10-11 a.m., **League Lowdown: LWVNM State Legislative Action Committee, How It Works and How to Join In.** Vicki Simons, Good Samaritan Social Center, Small Conference Room.

September 13 (Monday) - 11:30 a.m., **Lunch with a Leader** at Good Samaritan Society, Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. **Topic: 2010 Election Update, Lynn J. Ellins, Doña Ana County Clerk.** Lunch is \$8. **Reservation required.**

September 15 (Wednesday) - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., **Voter Services Committee Meeting**, Branigan Library Board Room. Contact: Erika Graf-Webster, 521-0600 or egrafwebster@comcast.net.

September 22 (Wednesday) - 6:30-8:30, **Candidates' Forum: State Offices and State Representatives**, Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St., Las Cruces, Contact: Nancy Phillips, 524-1373 or phillips775@msn.com.

September 29 (Wednesday) - 10-11:30 a.m., **Education Study Group**, Good Samaritan Society, Social Center, Small Conference Room (near Main Auditorium). Contact: Bonnie Burn, 526-0013 or burnb@comcast.net

Notable Event: September 17 - U.S. Constitution Adopted 1787.