

# The VOTER

League of Women Voters  
of Greater Las Cruces  
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)  
Web Site: [www.lwvglc.org](http://www.lwvglc.org)  
July/August 2012



## *Organ Mountain Desert Peaks Monument Proposal*

**Monday, August 13, 2012, 11:30 a.m., Good Samaritan Social Center,  
Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle**

David Soules will speak about the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks Monument Proposal, a unique opportunity to protect some of our area's most beautiful and significant public lands. These lands possess unique Pre-American, New Mexican, and American history including several Native American petroglyph and pictograph sites, the Butterfield Trail, the Gadsden Purchase, Billy the Kid's hideout at Outlaw Rock, a number of caves, World War II Aerial Targets, and historic ranches. They also constitute important watersheds for Doña Ana County, and provide critical habitat for a vast array of Chihuahuan desert wildlife.

David Soules is a lifelong resident of Las Cruces with a passion for protecting the tremendous resource of wild places surrounding our community. His childhood was enriched by picnics at fossil hill in the Robledo Mountains and La Cueva at the base of the Organs. As a youth, he raised steers purchased from ranches near Lookout Mountain and Dripping Springs, and he delivered newspapers by horseback to pay for their feed. As a boy scout, he hiked and camped in the Doña Ana and Organ Mountains, followed by hiking, hunting and camping in the Uvas and Potrillo Mountains as a teenager and young adult. He has travelled on virtually every road within the Monument Proposal areas, and has extensive personal knowledge of the terrain, topography, and wildlife. Mr. Soules is employed as an Engineer at White Sands Missile Range, and is an active member of numerous conservation organizations.

Since discussions began some time ago about designating certain areas a wilderness, the League has been involved. This event enables League members to learn first-hand about the proposal.

## *CALENDAR*

**August 2** (Thursday) - 2-4 p.m., **Board Meeting**, Branigan Library, Board Room, Contact: Bonnie Burn, President, Tel: 526-0013, E-mail: [burnb@comcast.net](mailto:burnb@comcast.net)

**August 6** (Monday) - **Deadline for Reservations Lunch with a Leader**, RSVP Bonnie Burn, Tel: 526-0013; E-mail: [burnb@comcast.net](mailto:burnb@comcast.net)

**August 13** (Monday) - 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., **Organ Mountain Desert Peak Monument Proposal**, **David Soules**, Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. \$10. **Reservations Required.** If you don't cancel your reservation, you will be charged for lunch.

**Notable Date: August 26** - Ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote - 92nd Anniversary. Women's Equality Day

**The VOTER**

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

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Christina Little-373-1882

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A nonpartisan political organization that 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 – Collective Impact and the Institute for  
Community Engagement**

The Institute for Community Engagement (IFCE) is a community initiative that strives to bring together residents and numerous organizations to affect common issues and to build the kind of community in which we want to live.

About eight years ago, initiatives were begun to change the direction of local government in our community. The first effort involved electing interested, qualified people to local government positions. The second was to increase the number of those who were interested in enhancing the quality of government. Third was to organize people and organizations to build a better community.

IFCE was established in 2009 with a philosophy that meaningful change occurs when new attitudes take hold and new policies are enacted. IFCE's mission is to research and analyze issues, develop policy options, and inform community members and leaders on topics that affect the well-being of Southern New Mexico residents in the areas of community building, broad-based economic development and environmental sustainability.

In pursuing this mission, three goals have been identified:

1. **Identify**, assess, research and facilitate the development of policy and strategies to build healthy local communities.
2. **Provide** community leaders, organizations and agencies with high quality information, cogent analysis, and strategic alternatives regarding important policy issues in a succinct and timely manner.
3. **Support** the development of new organizations and/or new initiatives of organizations that align with IFCE's mission and vision.

To date, eleven projects have been initiated and are at various stages of development. Three discussed at Lunch with a Leader include:

1. Community Leaders Support Project that lead to the development of a vision among key community leaders for an improved quality of life for all residents of Doña Ana County.
2. Children's Reading Foundation, a community program that encourages reading to children for 20 minutes a day beginning at birth. Twenty-seven community organizations are partners in this project. For example, at Memorial Medical Center new mothers receive books and other gifts that encourage reading and engaging in language activities with children from birth to kindergarten age. Parent training occurs throughout all the Doña Ana County communities, including the colonias. Members of the community volunteer in grades pre-Kindergarten through grade 2 to read in classrooms and enrich the language experience of the children.
3. Collective Impact Initiative is in its incubation stage. This is a more complex endeavor that seeks to solve complex social problems and involves broad cross-sector community collaboration. The major goal is to bring to scale measurable results over time. Bienestar

(Continued on page 5)

## President's Message

In his ruling in the Affordable Health Care case, Chief Justice John G. Roberts wrote:

***It is not our job [Supreme Court] to protect the people from the consequences of their political choices.***



Our votes in the November 6 General Election will have consequences because the candidates we elect will be making decisions that affect our daily lives.

It is too late in the 2012 general election process to ferret out interested, qualified people to run for elected office. Voters spoke when they cast their ballots in the June 5 NM Primary Election. However, November 6 is the final opportunity to speak with your vote. Between now and October 20, the start of Early Voting, you have many opportunities to educate yourself about the candidates and ballot issues (see Voter Services report, p. 6) Remember, **your vote is your voice**, and you will live with "the consequences."

In other news:

- Organ Mountain-Desert Peak Monument initiative, on behalf of the League and in light of the June 26 County Commission meeting when some commissioners retreated on the resolution supporting the initiative, I wrote a letter to the County Commissioners encouraging them to continue their support and to ensure that the meeting announcement requirements of the Open Meetings Act are followed.
- Again, related to the Monument initiative, at the City Council meeting on July 2, I read a statement in support of the preservation effort.
- Our membership renewal period ended on June 30. It is anticipated that the 2012-2013 Membership Directory will be available as early as the Lunch with a Leader Meeting on August 13.
- I attended the 2012 Immigration Conference hosted by NMSU, University of New Mexico and University of Texas-El Paso. A summary appears on p. 9.
- We have made some excellent plans for voter education in conjunction with the 2012 General Election. See p. 6. We are very pleased that the City of Las Cruces has agreed to have our candidates forums in the City Council Chamber and we will have access to the TV facilities.

*Bonnie Burn*

**President's Message Correction, June, 2012:** Our apologies to Donna and Tom Tate who were instrumental in organizing the special recognition luncheon for Marnie and Jim Leverett.

# Welcome

## NEW MEMBERS

Lynette Schurdevin

**57th Annual Water Resources and Research Initiative Water Conference**

**Hard Choices: Adopting Policy and Management to Water Security**

**August 28, 2012**

NMSU Corbett Center

Sponsored by U.S. Senator Tom Udall and Barbara Couture, President, NMSU

Register at

<http://2012.wrri.nmsu.edu>

## *Friends of the League*

John Ameriks, M.D.  
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Kathryn Schultz  
Wanda Skowlund  
Sunspot Solar Energy Systems  
Donna and Tom Tate  
Williams Design Group, Inc.  
Zia Engineering & Environment  
Consultants

*Thank You*

## In Memoriam

*Recognizing three League members who died this spring.*

*They are remembered for their many contributions to the League and will be missed.*



**Helen Buggert**, 50-year honorary League member, died unexpectedly on May 28. Helen began her membership in Norman, OK; later transferring her membership to DeKalb, IL and then Las Cruces, NM. Helen's interest in politics attracted her to the League where she served in many capacities as a member and leader. In DeKalb she helped bring about a city

manager form of government, worked on a constitutional convention and focused on health care. Helen and husband, Bob, moved to Las Cruces in 1998 where she was an active member of the League of Women Voters and also of other community organizations.

**Dee Watkins** was a long-time member of the LWV of Central New Mexico. Many of us came to know her because of her significant, persistent work with drug policy. She and committee members focused on pain management and provided information and made presentations to organizations throughout the state. At the time of her death, April 18, she was chairing a Study of Alcohol, a program for study and action adopted by delegates at the 2011 state convention. The study fell under the Drug Policy portfolio. Dee and husband, Roland, moved to Albuquerque in 1975 from Waterloo/Cedar Falls, Iowa.

**Jane Gaziano**, member of the Santa Fe County League, is remembered by us for her leadership skills, and her focus on education and voter registration. She held leadership positions at the local level; President, LWV of Santa Fe County; and the state level, Chair, Education Committee, LWVNM. She tirelessly testified at NM Legislative hearings to ensure funding and policy for NM education. She registered voters in schools. Her colleagues remember her for her passion, ideas, time commitment, and energy that often inspired members to become more active in the League. She died on April 3 after a three-year struggle with cancer.

*We only part to meet again.*  
John Gay

### The Dash Poem by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak  
At the funeral of a friend  
He referred to the dates on her tombstone  
From the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came the date of her birth  
And spoke of the following date with tears,  
But he said what mattered most of all  
Was the dash between those years

For that dash represents all the time  
That she spent alive on earth  
And now only those who loved her  
Know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own,  
The cars, the house, the cash,  
What matters is how we live and love  
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard,  
Are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left  
That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough  
To consider what's true and real  
And always try to understand  
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger  
And show appreciation more  
And love the people in our lives  
Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect  
And more often wear a smile,  
Remembering that this special dash  
Might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read  
With you life's action to rehash  
Would you be proud of the things they say  
About how you spent your dash?

## Institute for Community Engagement

(Continued from page 2)

(Spanish word for well-being or flourishing) is proposed as a first program in this project. The proposal seeks to assist the flourishing of children and families in Doña Ana County from birth to adulthood and is focused on ensuring healthy kids, well educated kids and secure families. This complex project is projected to occur over a generation of time. To achieve success, five conditions have to be met among the partner cross-sector working groups: common agenda, shared measurement, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and support from a “backbone” organization such as IFCE.

Members of the current board of directors are people who have been involved with community

development over their adult life time: Monica Torres, President; Ernest Flores, Vice-President; William Barnhouse, Secretary/Treasurer; Jane Asche, Lucia Veronica Carmona, and Martina Filerio.

More information about IFCE may be found on its web site: [www.ifcenm.org](http://www.ifcenm.org).

Literature of interest includes:

Sen, Amartya, 1999, Development of Freedom, Oxford University Press

Nussbaum, Martha, 2011. Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach, Harvard University Press

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## The Garden of Democracy by Eric Liu and Nick Hanauer - Jane Carter, Reviewer

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This little (160 pages) gem examines the workings of economics, citizenship and the role of government in improving our democracy. The authors use the garden as a metaphor for our democracy. Seed thrown onto untilled soil will not produce a productive garden. The soil must be prepared, seed planted and the plot watered, weeded and tended. So, too, a democracy must also be tended. Left to fend for itself, our democracy, as we know it, will die.

But the way we look at issues and solve problems is much different now (GardenBrain) from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (MachineBrain). The authors outline these differences as related to economics, citizenship, capitalism and the role of Government. In the MachineBrain view, people are “*intrinsically individualistic. I should be able to do as I please as long as it doesn't hurt others. Success is a result of individual effort. Markets are pretty effective. People are rational, calculating and selfish. Markets are always right and self correcting.*” On the other hand, the GardenBrain view sees humans as “*intrinsically social. Success is the result of cooperating to compete. People are emotional and reciprocal. Markets are effective if well constructed. Markets, like gardens, must be tended.*”

The hows of this needed tending permeate the book as old myths and new methods are explored. Foremost is the need to change where power resides. Using new theories of everything being interrelated (Complexity Science) and their belief in local solutions, the authors recommend a “Big What” (federal goals/money) & “Little How” (local ideas & implementation). This is in contrast to the “Big What” & “Big How” of the Left and the “Little What” and “Little How” of the Right seen today.

This is a book for thinking Americans who are looking to take the next step in the evolution of our democracy. It is also a book that begs to be shared and discussed among small groups all over the country. It is particularly germane in this election year as we sort out the campaign rhetoric. If you are interested in joining such a (short term) discussion group, please call or talk with Jane Carter, 644-1065. The books are \$11 each. Unfortunately it is not available in audio format, yet.

[Editor's Note: Judith Binder, member, LWV of Central New Mexico directs us to book TV to listen or watch Eric Liu discuss this book: [www.booktv.org/watch/13373](http://www.booktv.org/watch/13373).]



# League News



## League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces (LWVGLC)

**Voter Services Moves Into High Gear** – *Gwen Hanson and Gracia Class, Co-Directors*

With Primary Elections over, the attention of members of the Voter Services Committee has turned to the 2012 General Election scheduled for November 6. Here is a “heads up” about our plans:

**Voter Registration**, Tom Schmutge, Chair, is working collaboratively with other community, nonpartisan groups to hold registration opportunities throughout Doña Ana County during the summer and up to October 9, closing date of registrations.

**Candidates Forums**: The Committee has planned three to accommodate the more than 40 candidates running for elected office in Doña Ana County. Save these dates, October 3, 10, and 17. The forums will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers from 6-7:30 p.m. They will be broadcast live on Comcast Cable Ch. 20 and rebroadcast up to November 6.

**Voters Guide**, Dale Yeo, Editor: A 16-page *Voters Guide* will be available on October 12, as a separate section of *The Las Cruces Bulletin*. Look for it in your home-delivered copy or in news stands throughout the Las Cruces area. The League is collaborating with CAFÉ, Comunidades en Acción y de Fe, a nonpartisan community based organization, to publish a Spanish edition of the *Voters Guide* that will be available to voters in Doña Ana County on October 12.

**Who's Who**: Dale Yeo, Editor: A revised directory based on certified results of the November 6 general election is projected to be distributed in January, 2013.

To make our voter education activities a success, we need your help. We look forward to your “yes” when we call on you. Meanwhile . . .

***SAVE THE DATES***

## League of Women Voters of New Mexico (LWVNM)

**Education**: A public information request was addressed to Secretary of Education Designate Hanna Skandera by Meredith Machen, Co-Vice President and Education Director, requesting the exact formula including detail on the weighting factors and other items used to calculate the A-F grades for public schools in New Mexico. Meeting agendas and minutes or any other records of any kind that lists or describes public input into the development and refinement of the formula also were requested for the period January 1, 2011, to the present. The request was prompted because the web site for the Secretary of Education seems to be out of compliance with the Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) requirements to the “repository for all information that is most likely to be needed by the public, including (but not limited to) open meetings and public records policies, meeting lists, proposed agendas, minutes, contents of meeting packets, documents, and so forth. The web site also should be a repository for searchable budget and financial records, including operating budgets, expenditures over a specified amount, and other budget and financial information. The data should be in a non-proprietary format that maximizes the public’s ability to download and analyze data.” As we go to press a response has not been received.

**Environment**: LWVNM has given testimony before the NM Environmental Improvement Board with follow-up correspondence to Governor Susana Martinez and the Public Regulation Commission (PRC), regarding greenhouse gas pollution from PNM’s coal-fired plant, San Juan Generating Station, near Farmington. The League is asking PNM to uphold the Clean Air Act by installing selective catalytic reduction controls. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently granted PNM three more months to plan ways to reduce emissions. In a recent op-ed article published in the *Albuquerque Journal* and *Santa Fe New Mexican*, Meredith Machen, Co-Vice President, reaffirmed the health hazards and medical costs associated with this kind of pollution. She mentioned that renovating a 40-year old plant

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**Environment** *(Continued from page 6)*

leaves a plant that is only 30 percent efficient and uses 9.6 billion gallons of water every year in addition to spilling tons of carbon pollution into the atmosphere and leaving behind toxic coal ash waste. The League is encouraging PNM to invest in cleaner energy sources.

**League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS)**

LWVUS held its biennial convention in Washington, D.C., June 8-12, 2012. Paul Frederickson, member Los Alamos League, represented the Greater Las Cruces League at convention. He provided a report of his experience. Of particular interest to the Greater Las Cruces League was the outcome of the recommendation about the per member payment rate (PMP). Preconvention, an email discussion ensued regarding the LWV Connecticut's (LWVCT) recommendation that LWVUS conduct a thorough analysis of its current finances and reach some decisions about the per member payment rate that would not strip local and state Leagues of the majority of member dues. Paul reported that the two-year budget was a contentious issue and was discussed very heavily at the Convention. Discussion began Friday evening at a caucus "Alternatives to Continued Increases in PMP" arranged by LWVCT. The most common reason given for not increasing PMP was that it is more difficult to recruit new members as membership rates increase. Having less money to carry out local voter services activities also was cited. The floor debate included options for a range of membership fees from very low for student and low-income members to as high as anyone wanted to pay. Other delegates pointed out things that LWVUS provided that were difficult for local Leagues to do, such as providing information to the U.S. Congress and lobbying for various issues on which the League has a position. In the end, the vote was very close, but the nays lost. The new PMP rate is \$31 for individual and \$15.50 for second household.

**Campaign Finance** was another topic of interest. In response to the *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (FEC), the League appointed a task force to study the issue. Paul attended a caucus at which the taskforce reported what it has been doing and listened to comments from delegates. Both LWV of California and LWV of Concord/Amherst (MA) described their work and

wrote a joint resolution that was accepted by the Resolutions Committee and passed on a floor vote.

**Farm Bill:** This bill may be of interest to Las Cruces because of its agricultural industry. The current bill is 1,000 pages with over 200 amendments that contain recommended regulations for risk insurance, genetically modified organism (GMO) labeling, help for small and mid-size farmers, safe water, surveillance, food stamp programs, and more. The U.S. House of Representatives "hijacked" the bill and it went to the Senate with very minimal funding requests. Delegates were encouraged to urge Senators to restore the funding.

**Senate Building Visit:** Four members of the NM delegation met with Matt Nelson, a member of Senator Tom Udall's staff, to report on the convention and issues relevant to League positions.

**Other Convention Matters:** Delegates adopted positions that included a new one on the recently completed study of privatization approved by the LWVUS Board at its June 2012 meeting. Responses were received from 227 Leagues across the country that participated in the study. The committee consisted of Janis McMillen (KS), chair; Diane Dilanni (TN), Carol Garrison (VA), Ann Henkener (OH), Cathy Lazarus (CA), Nora Leech (WA), Muriel Strand (CA), and Ted Volskay (SC). See p. 8, for the full privatization position.

**Sentencing Policy Concurrence:** Delegates adopted a new position by concurrence with the Sentencing Policy position of LWV of District of Columbia. The position states: *The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.*

**Convention Videos Available:** Videos of the numerous invited speakers at Convention are now available online. Logon to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), cursor down to Members menu, click on Convention and Council. On the Convention page, enter Convention Videos in the Search box. As you read through the narrative, click on the speaker's name and the video appears. Kathleen Hall Jamieson and Attorney General Eric Holder are among the videos available. This is an educational way to hear what was said at Convention.

## League of Women Voters of the United States

### PRIVATIZATION Position

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the LWV believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

The League believes that some government provided services could be delivered more efficiently by private entities; however, privatization is not appropriate in all circumstances. Privatization is not appropriate when the provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. While the League recognizes that the definition of core government services will vary by level of government and community values, services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in their entirety. These services include the electoral process, justice system, military, public safety, public health, education, transportation, environmental protection and programs that protect and provide for basic human needs.

The decision to privatize a public service should be made after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications of privatizing service delivery. While specific criteria will vary by service and local conditions, the League believes the following considerations apply to most decisions to transfer public services, assets and functions to the private sector:

- On-going and timely communication with stakeholders and the public;
- Statement of the circumstances as they exist and what is to be gained;
- Definition of the quality, level and cost of service expected;
- Assessment of the private market; whether there are providers to assure competitive pricing and delivery; (in some cases there may not be multiple providers if a service is so specialized. i.e. high tech, airports.);
- Cost-benefit analyses evaluating short and long term costs of privatization, including the ongoing

- costs of contract administration and oversight;
- An understanding of the impact on customers, the broader community, environment and public employees;
- An open, competitive bidding process with clearly defined criteria to be used in selecting a contractor;
- A provision and process to ensure the services or assets will be returned to the government if a contractor fails to perform;
- A data-driven selection of private entities whose goals, purposes, and means are not incompatible with the public well-being;
- The careful negotiation and drafting of the controlling privatization contract; and
- Adequate oversight and periodic performance monitoring of the privatized services by the government entity to ensure that the private entity is complying with all relevant laws and regulations, contract terms and conditions, and ethical standards, including public disclosure and comment.

The League believes that the enactment of state laws and issuance of regulations to control the process and delivery of privatization within a state's jurisdiction is often appropriate and desirable. Best practices for government regulation of the privatization process should include the following requirements:

- An open process that allows for citizen input and oversight in a timely manner;
- A reasonable feasibility study and project evaluation appropriate to the size and scope of the project;
- The establishment of carefully crafted criteria for selection of the private-entity (beyond the lowest cost bid);
- Additional consideration for local bidders in order to support the local economy;
- The retention of liability and responsibility with the government entity;
- Allowance for and promotion of opportunities for innovation and collaboration; and,
- Provision for employment, benefits and training plans on behalf of employees displaced as a result of privatization.

*Position announced by LWVUS, June 2012.*

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**2012 Immigration Policy Conference**  
**Immigration Policy and Human Rights: Perspectives from Border Communities**  
*Bonnie Burn, Reporting*

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Neil Harvey, Ph.D., Head, Department of Government, New Mexico State University, in collaboration with the University of New Mexico and the University of Texas-El Paso, organized a week-long conference around the topic of immigration and social justice.

The events for the week began on Saturday evening, June 16, with a special presentation about Mexican journalists seeking asylum and living in exile in the U.S.

This was followed by three days of panel discussions that covered history, policies, and current events related to social justice in the current immigration milieu. Thursday and Friday were devoted to field trips to the Border Farmworkers Center in El Paso, and Vecinos Unidos in Chaparral. A final two-hour summary discussion of the week's activities concluded the conference.

In this academic setting, many of the speakers reported on their research. Translators were available so the papers were given in English and Spanish. Two guest speakers were from Mexican universities: Perla Vargas, Universidad Autónoma de Chiapas, and Luis Alfonso Herrera, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez.

Focus of the conference was on social justice and the immigration experience from Mexico and more commonly now from Central America—immigrants making their way to the U.S. through Mexico. As law enforcement continues to be the focus of U.S. immigration policy, more and more research efforts are devoted to documenting and building statistical data bases to support the anecdotal claims we hear and read about in the newspaper.

Due process was a recurring theme in the panel discussions and most specifically in the showing of the documentary film, "Lost in Detention," developed by Maria Hinojosa, writer and journalist, PBS-NOW, NPR-Latino USA, and PBS –Need to Know. Ms. Hinojosa was also the keynote speaker at the end of the day on Monday.

"Lost in Detention" was shown on PBS-Frontline and documents the problems of the privatized detention

center, Wallacy, in Texas, near McAllen. People who are detained there are sometimes undocumented residents who have lived in the U.S. for a long time, are picked up for traffic violations, and are repatriated to their home country. Privatized detention centers do not fall under the U.S. Prison system; therefore, are not required to provide due process to the detainees. Knowing what is going to happen to you, how long you will be detained, having access to a lawyer, keeping your personal belongings and having your personal papers confiscated are routine issues for detainees. Poor food, lack of medical attention, physical and verbal abuse, including rape, are often facts of daily life. In her keynote address, Maria Hinojosa related many personal stories of the inmates—who can be called inmates because they wear a prison uniform and can be detained for as long as the system chooses.

It was interesting to learn about immigrants arriving from Central America. Because this migration has increased, Mexico no longer requires papers of those who are passing through. Although these immigrants are seeking a better life and work, they often are fleeing for safety or personal security reasons and do not have much education or personal experience with immigration. They also speak a dialect of Spanish that is not easily understood in Mexico. In their naiveté, they are more vulnerable and often become victims of the system.

The end question is what can be done about the situation? The obvious answer is passage of comprehensive immigration reform law. President Obama's recent executive order to issue green cards to immigrants age 18-30 who were brought to the U.S. by parents is a temporary solution that does not offer a pathway to citizenship. Immigration is occurring all over the planet and, in some cases, may be seen as a refugee movement as people seek safe havens for themselves and their families. When borders are closed, immigrants place themselves in the hands of those who make them most vulnerable. Reform laws must be enacted that enforce labor policy, protect women, help children who immigrate by themselves and keep families together who are undocumented but already living in the U.S.

## Brief History of the League of Women Voters

(Source: LWVUS Facebook Page)

- 1920 Founded on February 14, 1920
- 1924 The National League is organized in 346 of 433 congressional districts. Twenty –three state Leagues and 15 city Leagues maintained regular business headquarters, nearly all with one or more paid staff.
- 1928 The League sponsors “Meet the Candidates,” the first national radio broadcast of a candidates forum.
- 1934 The depression of the 1930s and the onset of World War II brought far reaching change to the League.
- 1941
- 1944 The 1944 convention makes major changes in the basic structure of the League, proclaiming it an association of members rather than a federation of state leagues and abolishes the department system of managing the various facets of the League program.
- 1946 At Convention, the name is changed to the League of Women Voters of the United States, and the national program is considerably shortened.
- 1951 “The National Voter” magazine is first published.
- 1955 League President Percy Maxim Lee testifies before Congress against Senator Joseph McCarthy’s abuse of congressional investigative powers.
- 1957 The League’s Education Fund is established.
- 1969 League membership reaches a high point, with almost 157,000 members.
- 1974 The bylaws are amended at Convention to allow men to join as full voting members.
- 1976 The League sponsors the first televised presidential debate since 1960, resulting in receiving an Emmy Award.
- 1982 The League is at the forefront of the struggle to pass the Voting Rights Act amendments.
- 1986 League pressure helps achieve Senate

(Continued on page 11)

## “Family Engagement for High School Success” Program at Mayfield High School - June 5, 6 p.m., Mayfield High School Media Center - Sue Cain, Co-Chair, Education

Paula Dowling and representatives from United Way Worldwide (UWW) introduced and reviewed a new program at Mayfield High that is part of the UWW and the Harvard Family Research Project (FRP) sponsored by AT&T. For the past three years, Paula provided leadership in promoting and helping to organize the implementation of the “Family Engagement for High School Success.” The program that serves both students and parents will start this fall with approximately 100 students who represent the bottom 25% of entering Freshmen. The purpose is to create and help to maintain a climate of success, instill the value of education, develop the ability of each student to become a “self advocate,” and create opportunities for students to connect with the community.

Two days before freshmen orientation, targeted students will have a special meeting that will include their parents or guardians to introduce them to the program. Components of this program are the following:

- Monthly meeting with students and their parents - sometimes together, other times separately. Each month, school attendance and grades will be reviewed; workshops to help both students and parents will be held, and incentives for success will be offered.
- Weekly checklists for parents and students concerning homework, grades, and attendance must be completed.
- Training for parents and students about completing homework assignments will be offered in English and Spanish.
- End-of-semester incentives for achievement and successful completion of classes will be presented.

In addition to this new initiative, for the last few years a program, “Engaging Latinos for Community Engagement” (ENLACE), has helped students stay in school and graduate. David Morales, ENLACE teacher, and four of his former students who have graduated from Mayfield High Schools described the program and efforts he made that kept them in school.

## LEAGUE OBSERVER REPORTS

*The League's Observer Corps can enable greater coverage and information gathering, provide early warning of upcoming issues of concern, increase League's visibility, and 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.*

### **Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority - Commission Meeting, May 15** - Vicki Simons and Charlotte McCarthy, Observers

All four Commissioners, along with staff, were present for the meeting. During the public participation portion of the meeting, Vicki Simons and Charlotte McCarthy, League observers, were invited to discuss the League's recently completed Affordable Housing Study and Report. Following the approval of the agenda, minutes of previous meeting, conflict of interest inquiry and approval of the consent agenda with no discussion, the Board discussed resolutions brought forward for approval.

The first resolution was an amendment to the Limited Partnership Agreement for Cimmaron II, a tax-credit financed public housing complex in Anthony. Contractor/developer J.L. Grey and the Housing Authority were partners in development of this complex. The complicated discussion involved the proportions of ownership between the General Partner (Housing Authority) and the Limited Partner (contractor J.L. Grey) and was intended to clarify the language in the agreement. A similar discussion followed involving the Limited Partnership agreement for Falcon Ridge, another tax-credit financed low-income public housing complex in Hatch.

Other resolutions discussed and approved involved personnel matters (e.g. membership in the state retirement plan and approval of the Interim Executive Director and Deputy Director to sign agreements). The resolution writing off uncollectable accounts was discussed. Staff explained that most of the uncollectable accounts were non-collectable rents and some damage repair costs.

Candidates for the fifth Board commissioner, the resident representative, were present and each gave a short presentation. The Board will choose one of them soon.

Management reports from the Accountant, Rental Voucher Program Manager, Housing Program Director and Executive Director were presented. The selection process for places in public housing was described; there are 3500 families on the waiting list. Two hundred more rental vouchers will be issued next week. The biggest challenge with rental vouchers is to find affordable housing in the private sector for which these can be used.

The meeting was adjourned and an executive session followed to deal with pending litigation.

### **History of the League** *(Continued from page 10)*

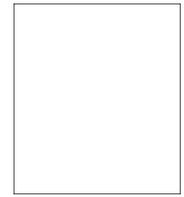
- ratification of the groundbreaking Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty.
- 1988 League contributed significantly to enactment of the historic Tax Reform Act.
- 1992 The League launches "Take Back the System," a voter campaign to reclaim government and elections.
- 2000 The Democracy Network (DNet) is launched nationwide. The web site is a major effort to provide information regarding elections to citizens across the nation.
- 2002 The League is instrumental in the enactment of the Help America Vote Act and the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Act.
- 2004 The League launches a nationwide voter education campaign, "5 Things You Need to Know on Election Day." The League receives the Civic Change Award from the Pew Partnerships for Civic Change.
- 2006 DNet is replaced by the even more effective voter education web site, Vote 411.

*(Editors Note: This history covers major milestones in the organizational evolution of the League. It does not cover the program items for study and action.)*



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**FIRST CLASS**

**July/August 2012**  
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**Membership Application**

**Membership:** Individual (\$60), 2nd Household Member (\$30), and Students (\$25)  
**New Members joining after November 1 pay half-dues.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2nd Household:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution 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 Education Fund

**All checks should be mailed to**

League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces, P.O. Box 8322, Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322

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.