

the VOTER

April 2024
Volume 55, Issue 11



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Co-Presidents' Communiqué

Hi League Members and Friends,

This is the last issue of *The Voter* for this fiscal year and Kathe and I want to thank you for reading the newsletter over the last 12 months. (This month's issue is abbreviated as we prepare for the Annual Meeting.) As you know, LWVSNM holds its Annual Business Meeting during the month of April which brings the year to a close. We hope you'll consider attending this important gathering in person on April 13, 2024. We'll not only take care of the annual items of business, but we'll also have a bit of fun with a fundraising silent auction. And, we'll have yummy snacks and beverages as a treat.

We want to thank Development Director Nancy



Stanton for coordinating the auction. All the monies raised will be earmarked for various voter services activities between now and November. You'll have time before and during the Annual Meeting to continue to raise your bids on your favorite items. Your generous bids will be appreciated! (See more on p.4.)



We also have good news and not-so-good news. The good news is that Kathe Kanim has agreed to be on the nominations slate for Voter Services Director. It's a two-year term that is critical to our organization. [If anyone

else wants to consider taking the job, you can also be nominated (from the floor) during the meeting.] Whoever is elected will take Dale Yeo's place after many years on the Board. (That's the bad news.) Dale will continue to be active, but she feels it's time to let someone else take the lead with Voter Services. Her hard work has helped to develop the League's legacy; we can't thank her enough for her efforts.

—continued, page 2

The Annual Meeting – April 13

There's a lot of business to take care of at the Annual Meeting. If you're able, try to attend in person so that we can meet face-to-face (remember the old days?). But, for those who prefer, the meeting will be on Zoom and you'll receive your email link with the packet of materials prior to the meeting.

The meeting will begin April 13 at 2:00 p.m. at the Doña Ana Community College Workforce Center at 2345 Nevada Ave. You may want to come a little early to place your bids on many donated items for the LWVSNM silent auction fundraiser.

The meeting's agenda will be filled with information including highlights of the past year by our directors and committee chairwomen. We'll also review the 2024/25 program. When you receive the packet for the meeting, please read through two revised Positions that have undergone much study and a lot of discussion. Beth Bardwell will give a summary of the updated Affordable Housing Position that now includes Beneficial Electrification. She'll be followed by Eileen VanWie whose committee has spent more than a year updating the Education Position. Both women will be recommending approval of the revised Positions.

The meeting will also bring forward a few changes to the bylaws and the 2024/25 budget will also need the membership's approval. You'll also vote on next year's slate of Officers and Board of Directors.

There are still a few vacancies that need volunteers. Please contact [Membership Director Kate Mangelsdorf](#) if you are interested in being the League Historian, a member of the Nominating Committee, or PR Director. Keep in mind that you can volunteer for just a piece of the PR job, such as helping with the website, creating the newsletter, or helping with publicity. You don't have to attend Board meetings for any of these roles.

▪ *Jo Galván Nash, Co-President*

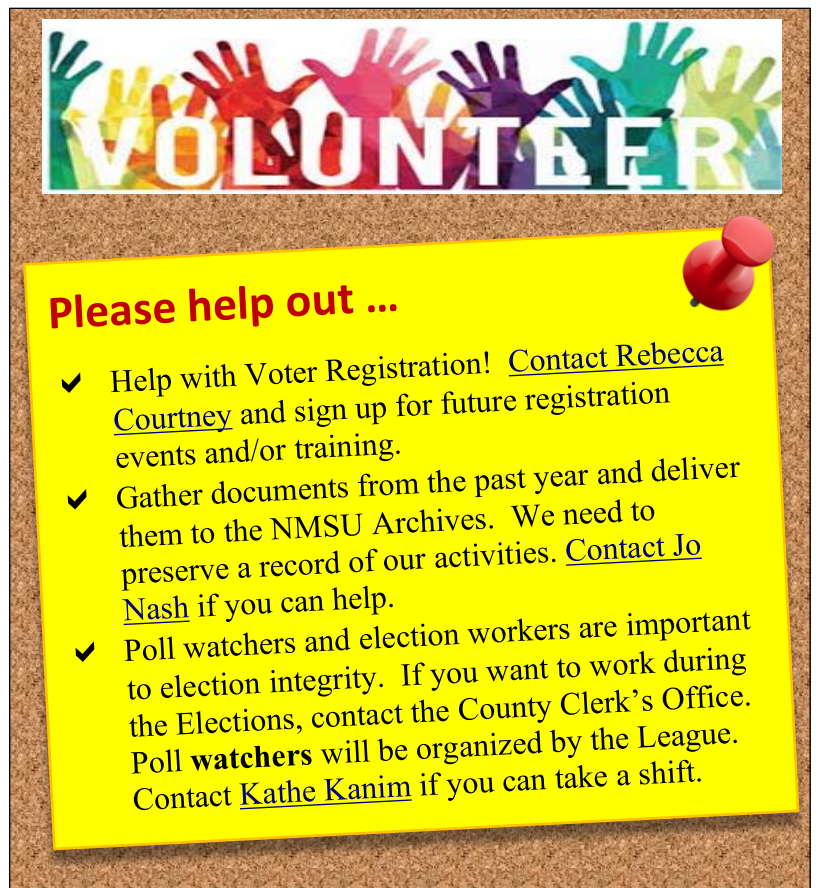
Communique cont. from page 1

Voter Services must continue to be a major focus with our organization. The Board has agreed that voter education, voter registration, and get-out-the-vote are integral to our work over the next several months. Your ongoing support is also fundamental. Let's keep the League front and center in the election process.

Finally, we want to thank Claudia Powell from the Otero County Unit (OCU). She is maintaining her membership but is stepping down as our liaison to the Board from Otero. We're grateful to her for organizing the unit which did great work in its first year. Luckily, Tom Krajci from Cloudcroft is taking over the OCU liaison reins. Tom is already assisting us and the state League with Vote411. The Otero unit will remain in good hands!

Meanwhile, we hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting. And, as always, thanks to *all of you* for being committed to our democracy.

▪ *Jo Galván Nash & Kathe Kanim, Co-Presidents*



2023/24 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO BOARD:

Jo Galván Nash & Kathe Kanim – Co-Presidents

Beth Bardwell – Vice-President

Edwina Jaramillo – Secretary

Kathy Brook – Interim Treasurer

Kathy Brook & Eileen VanWie – Past Presidents

Dale Yeo – Voter Services Co-Director and
Co-Director - OPEN

Kate Mangelsdorf – Membership Director

Eileen VanWie & Josie Miller – Youth Engagement
Co-Directors

Nancy Stanton — Development Director

OPEN – Public Relations Director

and

Tom Krajci — Otero Unit Liaison

Jo Galván Nash – The Voter Editor

Kate Mangelsdorf, Chair, and Johnnie Aldrich,

Members – Nominating Committee

OPEN — Historian

Upcoming Calendar Events

APRIL 2024

National School Librarian Day (4th); National Siblings Day (10th); National Pet Day (11th); [Patriot's Day \(15th\); Emancipation Day \(16th\); Administrative Professionals Day \(17th\); Husband Appreciation Day \(20th\); Earth Day \(22nd\)](#)

April 1, Mon.: **Regular Board Meeting**; 5:30 pm, via Zoom

April 2, Tues.: **SNM Voter Services Committee**, 3 pm,
via Zoom; [contact Kathe Kanim](#) to join.

April 2, Tues.: **Affordable Housing Committee**, 3:30 pm,
via Zoom; [contact Beth Bardwell](#) to join.

April 8, Mon.: **SNM Education Committee**, 5 p.m.,
via Zoom; [contact Eileen VanWie](#) to join.

April 13, Sat.: **Annual Business Meeting**, 2 pm, DACC
Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada Ave., hybrid, **Come early to bid on the Silent Auction items.**

April 15, Mon.: **Short Board Meeting**; 5:30 pm, Zoom

April 18, Thurs.: **Tax Day** — *Are your taxes done?*

MAY - JUNE 2024

No General Membership Meeting in May. The next meeting will be Sat., **June 8** at 2:00 p.m. unless notified otherwise. This will be our League's time to discuss the "action" put into our local program and priorities, referred to as the **"Visioning Lab."**

Prioritizing our Voter Services Efforts

The league's Voter Services Committee (VSC) has met several times and has been prioritizing the future activities that will help build voter awareness throughout the county. At this point, in addition to promoting Vote411.org, here are the top choices that are being considered:

1. **Voter Registration and Training;** Rebecca Courtney will be working with the County Clerk's Office to set up voter registrar training. Then, there will be opportunities to sign up new voters. If you want to get involved with this top activity, contact Rebecca (rebeccacourtney1965@gmail.com) and/or attend a VSC meeting. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 2 at 3 pm, via Zoom. [[Kathe Kanim](#) can send you the Zoom link – just let her know.]

2. **Candidate Forums:** The League is in discussions with the NAACP of Doña Ana County and the Southern NM Bar Association to determine whether to co-sponsor a forum for the District Attorney race in Doña Ana County. There are six DA candidates on the

Primary Election ballot — one Republican and five Democrats. We will notify you if the League will be a co-sponsor and the date, time and place.

3. **Flyers to Rural Communities:** If the League can obtain additional funding, flyers will be distributed, primarily to rural parts of the county. Low voting precincts and Spanish-speaking voters are the priority. Getting residents information on how and where to register, absentee voting, early voting dates, and registration deadlines will be the content.

4. **Social Media:** We want to fill Instagram, X, and Facebook with lots of messages about Vote411, getting registered, how to vote, and more! If you like to post to these social media sites, let the League know. We have lots of graphical images that can be used between now and November.

These and other activities will be dependent on volunteers, so we encourage you to share your time and talents.

▪ *Jo Nash, Co-President*

Membership Dues for 24/25

LWVSNM is pleased to announce that the yearly dues for 2024/25 will remain at the individual rate of \$65 per person; a second household member will continue to cost only \$32.50 per year. We're glad that dues aren't going up, but this doesn't mean our expenses are not increasing. We are paying more for just about everything. Expenses include things such as office supplies, printing, postage, computer paper and ink, Internet fees and maintenance, and our largest yearly cost, the Voters' Guides.

Another reason for not increasing dues is the fact that all Leagues will soon initiate a new dues-paying system. By January 2025, the national League will unveil the new system which will also change the sharing of dues among the local, state and national levels.

Currently, your dues are collected through our League and are then shared through per member payments (PMP)

from SNM to the state and national levels. As soon as the new system is finalized, we'll let you know the annual dues amount under the new model. It's expected that the new distribution of funds will reduce the average proportion going to national (which means our share should increase). The national league believes this change will better support local organizations. In the coming months, we'll also work on a Question & Answer flyer to clarify all of our questions.

When to Pay Your Dues

You may bring your checks or cash to the April 13, 2024 Annual Meeting for your 2024/2025 dues: \$65 for single membership; \$32.50 for a second member in the same household; \$0 fee for enrolled students, 16 years of age or older.

Make your checks payable to LWVSNM. Your dues are tax-deductible. You can also mail your dues to: LWVSNM, P.O. Box 15142, Las Cruces, NM 88004. Please be sure to include your current addresses, email, and phone number.

Dues can also be paid online. Please consider adding an additional \$2.50 to cover the online fees that the League must pay.

Take a Look at Who's Running

If you want to see all the names of candidates in the Primary Election, visit the Secretary of State's website:

<https://candidateportal.servis.sos.state.nm.us/CandidateList.aspx?eid=2876&cty=99>

After selecting "Doña Ana" County, be aware three of the names have been disqualified by the Secretary of State's Office. They are: House Dist. #37, Ronnie Sisneros; County Commission District #5, Oscar Butler; and Senate District #37, Richard Reynaud (write-in).

Don't forget, all state Representatives' and Senators' seats are up for election. For a downloadable list courtesy of the state League, here are two links to see all the names:

[4 Primary House Candidates- 3-19.pdf \(nmlegis.gov\)](#)

[24 Primary Senate Candidates 3-22.pdf \(nmlegis.gov\)](#)

New Board Member Named

Nancy Stanton was recently named as Director of Development for LWVSNM. Throughout the year she has served as the Development Committee Chair. The Board of Directors asked her to serve as a Director for the rest of this fiscal year and she agreed. She will be voted on by the Board again in May to serve a full, one-year term.

Nancy has been making a lot of contacts and meeting with businesses to promote the LWVSNM organization and to ask for donations that will support our mission. She has a long history of working with non-profits. If you're interested in helping her on the Development Committee [contact her right away.](#)



Nancy Stanton

Get a Proxy to Submit Your Bids

Don't forget, the Annual Meeting Silent Auction will benefit not only from your bids, but also from your new, gently used, or vintage items. Please consider donating items for this fundraiser to support Voter Services. Nancy is willing to pick up your contributions by April 5th. Simply contact her: senraba@yahoo.com or 352-205-3984.

DONATION SUGGESTIONS:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Jewelry | Gift Cards |
| Pottery | Purses/Clothes |
| Handmade Items | Kitchen Items |
| Artwork | Children's Toys |
| Books | Plants |

Transparency in Government

There were 25 New Mexico legislators who filled out a survey in late 2023 by NMFOG (New Mexico Foundation for Open Government). Questions ranged from modernizing the Legislature to transparency and accountability. Plus, half of the respondents agreed that the state's budgeting process needs reform to improve transparency. Look at the survey results by [clicking here.](#)

The only Doña Ana legislator who participated was Rep. Tara Jaramillo (part of her district is in Doña Ana County).

If you're attending the Annual Meeting on Zoom, you can still bid if: you have someone who attends the meeting in person and is willing to write down your bids, is willing to pay for your item at the end of the meeting (and will pay you back) and will deliver it to you.



Women's History Month Featured Former MDWA Winners



League members were treated to discussion by current and past honorees of the LWVSNM Making Democracy Work Award. The March General Meeting coincided with Women's History month.

The panelists (L to R) were Mary Carter, Anthony Women's Intercultural Center; Robyn Holmes, former Otero County Clerk; 2024 MDWA Winner Kayla Blanchard, health equity specialist from Alamogordo; and moderator Dr. Linda Scholtz of NMSU's EID Office.



OBSERVER REPORTS

LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Session

March 4, 2023

Observer: Jen Kreie

As background, in the second council meeting in February, Mayor Enriquez said he wants the public input agenda item moved to right before the city councilors make their individual reports near the end of the agenda. He also wants people to sign-up at the door if anyone wants to speak rather than him asking each row in the audience. (See the [City Council video](#) at about 2:39:00 in the timeline.) Because of this planned agenda change beginning in April, many people spoke against this change in the agenda.

Resolutions and ordinances acted on by the Council:

- Approval to issue general obligation bonds as a part of the City's "affordable housing" strategy. This housing investment strategy resolution was also approved by the Council.
- The Council approved the addition a crosswalk signal on Picacho at 4th street.
- The Council denied a zoning change for 541 Campo Street from R-3 to C-1.

LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Session

March 18, 2023

Observer: Jen Kreie

Mayor Pro Tem Johana Bencomo introduced two sign-language interpreters at the start of the meeting. They alternated throughout the meeting and interpreted everything.

The City Council considered three resolutions:

- The Council voted to accept grant awards to various city departments, such as the Branigan Library, which received money from the State.
- Another resolution was passed for the purchase of 21 acres at the corner of Motel Blvd and Bruins Lane. This land will become part of the Parks and Recreation Department and will be developed at some point in the future. The cost of the purchase is covered by the park impact fees that the City collects.
- The third resolution was tabled until July because a future work session about the Innovation and Industrial Park may impact the Council's decision.

County Clerk Addresses NAACP-DAC

Dr. Amanda López Askins, Doña Ana County Clerk, was the guest speaker at our meeting on March 16, 2024. Dr. Askins talked about the upcoming elections and things her office is doing to ensure the integrity of the elections. In response to a question, she recommended people go to NMVOTE.ORG to change or simply verify their voter registration information. Starting this year there will be an ongoing list of people who prefer to vote absentee which means voters won't have to keep requesting an absentee ballot in future elections. Dr. Askins encouraged people to consider working at one of the polling centers.

Dr. Bobbie Green, President of the NAACP DAC Chapter, introduced a guest among the meeting attendees, Mr. Mitch Boyer. Mr. Boyer's grandparents, Francis and Ella Louise Boyer, founded the first African-American settlement in Vado. Mr. Boyer will be the keynote speaker at the Juneteenth celebration this summer.

The statewide Law Enforcement Certification Board, which usually meets in Santa Fe, will meet in Las Cruces on March 21st. The meeting will be at the Police Training Academy at 550 South Sonoma Ranch Blvd. The first part of the meeting, which includes public input, is open to the public. The meeting is closed when personnel issues are being reviewed. Dr. Green, a member of the Board, encouraged people to attend.

- Submitted by Jennifer Kreie, NAACP and LWVSNM Member

UPCOMING GOVT. MEETINGS

LC City Council:

April 1; April 8 (work session); April 15; April 22 (work session); May 6; all at 1:00 p.m., City Hall

County Commission:

April 23 at 9:00 am, DAC Govt. Center.

LCPS School Board:

April 2 (work session) 4:00 pm, LCPS Admin. Bldg. Board Rm.; April 23, 6 pm, rescheduled Regular Meeting; LCPS Admin. Building Board Room.

NMSU Board of Regents: [Check here for April meeting.](#)

Books for LWVSNM Book Club – April 2024

We read so we know things

BOOK CLUB MEETINGS ARE ON 1ST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 3:00 PM

If you would like to participate, contact Erika at grafwebster@icloud.com

Books Selected for Upcoming Meetings

<p>April 4</p> <p>Moderator: Kathy Brook</p>	<p>Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America by Heather Cox Richardson <i>A vital and urgent call to action about the precarious state of American democracy, charting its historical challenges and current threats, from one of our era's most important and insightful historians. Richardson reminds us that democracy is not a static institution but a living, evolving process that requires constant vigilance and participation from all of us. The lessons of the past offer a roadmap for navigating a moment of political crisis. Richardson delves into the tumultuous journey of American democracy, revealing how the roots of Donald Trump's "authoritarian experiment" can be traced back through the earliest days of the republic. She examines the historical forces that have led to the current political climate, showing how modern conservatism has preyed upon a disaffected population, weaponizing language and promoting false history to consolidate power.</i></p>
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