# the VOTER

## SEPTEMBER 2023 Volume 55, Issue 4



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# Co-Presidents' Communiqué

Greetings everyone!

It's already September and that means an uptick in activity regarding upcoming elections. Many of our members are already knee-deep in activities that hopefully will get voters interested in voting. We're in the midst of producing our English and Spanish voters' guides. They are wonderful examples of how your dues are spent. Our organization has had a long tradition of informing citizens about elections, and the guides are a critical tool for that effort.

We're working hard to gather answers to the questions we posed to local candidates to be printed





in the guides. Local voters need to know about candidates' qualifications, perspectives, and priorities. Our goal is to get answers from *all* candidates. And, don't forget, candidates' answers will also be accessible online at Vote411.org.

The televised candidate forums are also on the drawing board. Partnering with KRWG TV, League members will be cohosting seven forums. We get a chance to ask the candidates multiple questions, along with host Anthony Moreno.

Meanwhile, now is a good

time to ask your neighbors and friends "Are you registered to vote?" As we all know, getting registered is only half of our country's struggle; the other half is getting people to exercise that right and cast their votes!

We also want to thank the state league for inviting SNM to participate in creating short public service announcements that will soon be on TV, radio, and social media. Working with other leagues,

# **Sept. General Mtg:** Help Plan our Conversation with Legislators

On Saturday, Sept. 9 from 2:00-4:00 PM, the general membership of the LWVSNM is meeting to brainstorm about how to structure a meaningful and informative panel discussion with our local state legislators about the upcoming 30-day legislative session during our annual December "Conversation with Legislators."

During an even-numbered year, like 2024, Article V of the New Mexico Constitution limits the scope of the legislative session to:

- budgets, appropriations, and revenue bills;
- bills on the Governor's call, e.g., special messages; and
- bills of the last previous regular session vetoed by the Governor.

Amendments to the NM Constitution can also be proposed. State economists estimate that the Fiscal Year 2025 revenues will be a little more than \$13 billion — a 12 percent growth over the previous year. For a more detailed look at the upcoming fiscal year state revenues, click here.

The General Membership meeting will be held at the Doña Ana Community College Workforce Training Center located at 2345 Nevada Avenue in Las Cruces. If you're attending via Zoom, please log in at least 10 minutes before the meeting starts. Light refreshments will be served for those who attend inperson.



Beth Bardwell

Hope you will come to share your opinions and ideas about how to design the agenda and structure this important annual meeting.

Beth Bardwell, Vice President

# Co-Presidents' Communiqué (cont.)

we recently concluded taping the messages (also in Spanish) from county clerks, including the Doña Ana County Clerk.

Please see page 5 that has information about the League's annual conversation with local legislators in early December. And, as Beth reported on page 1, please consider attending the general meeting on Sept. 9; this is when we'll prioritize issues and decide how to advocate for certain topics with our lawmakers.

Finally, we must thank our Treasurer Louise Marquez who's been managing the budget since April. Louise works fulltime in economic development and unfortunately, she had to step down from the Board. She's done a great job and we're glad she's maintaining her membership. But this means we need a treasurer.

If you enjoy attention to detail, we need someone to handle the checkbook, monitor line-item expenses and attend Board meetings. Contact Jo or Kathe if you're interested.

As always, thank you for your support!

Jo Galván Nash and 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

**OPEN-Treasurer** 

Kathy Brook & Eileen VanWie – Past Presidents

Dale Yeo – Voter Services Co-Director and

**TBA, Co-Director** 

Kate Mangelsdorf – Membership Director

Fileen Van Wie & Josie Miller – Youth Enga

Eileen VanWie & Josie Miller – Youth Engagement Co-Directors

TBA - Public Relations Director

and

Nancy Stanton — Development Chair
Jo Galván Nash – The Voter Editor
Mary Flynn, Chair, and Johnnie Aldrich and Kate
Mangelsdorf, Members – Nominating Committee
TBA — Historians

Claudia Powell & Cindy Broughton — Otero Unit Liaisons



### **Observer Corps Needs Help**

Consider attending in-person and/or watching online the County Commission meetings. Our positive, community watchdogs report to our members pertinent information that impacts our organization's programs and other information that has significance within our communities. If you're able to spend a few hours a month on this activity, please volunteer!

## **Are you Financially Savvy?**

The League needs a treasurer! This Board position takes care of occasional purchases, incoming dues, and watches over budget revenue and expenditures. Please contact a co-president if you can step into this important role.

#### **Come Work with our Youth**

LWV members have opportunities to participate in youth engagement projects by joining the Youth Engagement Committee. You can select from a variety of projects to encourage youth to be civically engaged and to celebrate the talents of area youth. The number one priority is to provide voter registration for youth. If you enjoy working with youth and want to help with above contact Josie Miller the goals, (jomiller@lcps.net) and Eileen VanWie (vanwieek@yahoo.com). We'll be scheduling a meeting in the near future. Thanks!

# **Upcoming Calendar Events**

#### **SEPTEMBER 2023**

Sept. 4, Mon.: Labor Day – no meetings

Sept. 5, Tues.: **LWV Housing Committee**, 3:30, Zoom, contact <u>Beth Bardwell</u> to join or attend.

Sept. 5, Tues.: **Regular Board Mtg**, 5:30, Zoom, contact Kathe if you want to attend.

Sept. 9, Sat.: **General Meeting**, 2:00 pm, Hybrid, DACC Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada St.; light refreshments served.

Sept. 18, Mon.: **Short Board Meeting,** 5:30 pm, Zoom, contact Kathe if you want to attend.

Sept. 19, Tues.: National Voter Registration Day

Sept. 21, Thurs.: **Education Committee Mtg**, Zoom, 4:30pm, contact Eileen if you want to attend.



# **Libraries Provide Wide Range of Services in the County**

The October general meeting proved to be quite informative and several guests from the local AAUW, Friends of Branigan Library, and librarians from Las Cruces, Anthony and Alamogordo were in attendance. The topic of "The Future of Libraries" was a good kick-off to this year's LWVSNM work toward updating our Library position.

A good crowd learned that libraries, particularly those in the small, rural areas like Anthony, provide a myriad of services in their communities. In addition to the obvious circulation of books, the librarians assist with technology, answer questions about social services, assist with notary services and photocopies, lend out kitchen equipment, schedule children's events, and much more.

The panel discussion on the hurdles they face was facilitated by LWVSNM member Jennifer Kreie. The librarians provided numerous details as to how library operations have evolved, how they are funded, and where improvements can be made. They are in contact with hundreds to thousands of patrons a year. They discussed their budgets, primarily funded by their municipalities, limited space in existing buildings, and how they want to build greater public awareness about their services.

If you want to get involved in future conversations about the League's Library Position, contact Kathy Brook who will be organizing a future meeting.

PHOTO: Above – Pictured left-to-right are Anthony Librarian Casey McCool, Kim Underwood, librarian from Alamogordo, and Sarah Booth deputy director of Las Cruces' Thomas Branigan Memorial Library.

PHOTOS: Top - Several guests attended the general meeting which focused on county libraries; Below - Dr. Jennifer Kreie, an LWVSNM member, moderated the panel discussion with three library professionals.



## **LWV State News**

LWVNM signed onto an amicus brief in the Congressional District 2 (CD2) lawsuit that will be heard in the 5th District Court in Lovington on September 27-29. The League did not sign on in support of the plaintiffs or the defendants. The amicus brief provides the tools that the 5<sup>th</sup> district court can use to determine if there was "egregious partisan gerrymandering" in our district. Take a look at the summary: <a href="https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2023/08/23/watchdog-groups-file-brief-in-congressional-gerrymandering-case/">https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2023/08/23/watchdog-groups-file-brief-in-congressional-gerrymandering-case/</a>

Once again, the NM League will also be leading Fair Districts for NM into the 2024 Legislative session. The League will be working with legislators to draft a joint resolution that, if passed, would put the question of creation of an independent redistricting commission on the 2024 ballot. Visit <a href="https://www.fairdistrictsnm.org">www.fairdistrictsnm.org</a> for the most current information. During our legislative conversation of Dec. 2, this is possibly a good topic for SNM to address and to ask Doña Ana county's lawmakers to support the joint resolution.



# Going to the Theatre Has a Relationship to SNM Priority

Many of our members have a story about the struggle to get a doctor's appointment or an unforeseen, high medical bill. To dig deeper into our shared experience, the League is hosting a general membership meeting in November on the topic of "Healthcare Reform and the Doctor Shortage."

If you want to accelerate your understanding of this topic before our membership meeting, you can watch a free, noteworthy documentary on Sunday, Sept. 10th at Mesilla's Fountain Theater followed by a panel discussion of local and state health care providers and experts.

Seating is first-come, first-served, so make plans to attend on Sept. 10 by 6pm. Even though the screening is free, donations are appreciated. The event is sponsored by Health Security for NM Campaign.

Hope to see you there!

Beth Bardwell, Vice-President



# **Learning During Retirement**

The Academy for Learning in Retirement (ALR) is beginning its fall presentations on Tuesay, Sept. 12. The first topic will be the Russo-Ukranian War. Click here for detailed information about the Zoom presentations as well as links to sign up for one or more presentations. ALR member Stewart Oberman (also of LWVSNM) reports that presentations will also be recorded for later viewing.

# **Partners Sought for the Voters' Guides**

Nancy Stanton is hitting the ground running. Our new Development Committee Chair has developed a plan to obtain partners for the creation of the Voters' Guides. The costs to print the guides have gone up (not surprising, right?), but we believe the business community would be interested in helping to sponsor the annual publication that will include many of the local election races on Nov. 2.

You may recall that El Paso Electric Co. awarded the League a grant last year which helped defray the expenses. Plus, your dues also support the printing of thousands of copies each election. The Las Cruces Bulletin and Spanish newspaper Camino Real are once again working with LWVSNM to get the guides ready and distributed.

The partnership categories from which to pick are: "Defender of Democracy - \$500;" "Voters' Advocate - \$250;" and "Voters' Friend - \$100." Depending on

the level, sponsors will see their logos or names in the guides, on our website, and in *The Voter*, among other benefits.

If you have a contact with a local business or know of someone who may be interested in partnering, please reach out to Nancy.



Nancy Stanton

# **DUES DEADLINE: September 30**

Several members have mentioned they intend to pay their annual dues. We hope they do! The SNM fiscal year runs May 1 through April 30, and we are already into our fourth month. September 30 is the final day for members to pay their annual dues.

On October 1, the League will finalize the membership list and create this year's Handbook and Membership Directory. Don't forget, the <u>current handbook is online</u> for your convenience. When we update the booklet, we will not put members' contact information online – just our names.

Members can use the last page of this month's Voter to renew their memberships; or join through <u>the League website.</u>

Thanks to everyone for continued support as we work together to strengthen democracy and empower voters.



#### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### **UPCOMING GOVT. MEETINGS**

LC City Council: Sept. 5, Sept. 11 (wrksess), Sept. 18, Sept. 25 (wrksess); all at 1:00 p.m., City Hall

**County Commission**: Sept. 12, Sept. 26; all at 9:00 am, DAC Govt. Center.

LCPS School Board: Sept. 5, (wrksess) 4:00 pm; Sept. 19, 6:00 pm; LCPS Admin. Bldg. Board Room.

NMSU Board of Regents: Sept. 7, 9am, NMSU ESC Bldg, Regents Room.



# December 2 Set for Social & Legislative Conversation

Save this date: Saturday, December 2, 2023. This is when LWVSNM will have the annual social combined with a conversation with our area legislators. The time will be 2:00-4:30 pm at the Doña Ana Community College Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada Street. This is where we have our General Meetings.

The planning committee is still working on all the specifics, including a budget for refreshments. We are looking forward to having a casual time to get to know one another better. More details will be sent to all members.

### **Books for LWVSNM Book Club – September 2023**

We read so we know things

BOOK CLUB MEETINGS ARE ON 1ST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

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

	Books Selected for Upcoming Meetings					
Sept 7 Moderator: Kathy	Poverty, by America by Matthew Desmond (304 pages)  The author reimagines the debate on poverty, making a "provocative and compelling" (NPR) argument about why it persists in America: because the rest of us benefit from it. The US, the richest country on earth, has more poverty than any other advanced democracy. Why? Why does this land of plenty allow one in every eight of its children to go without basic necessities, permit scores of its citizens to live and die on the streets, and authorize its corporations to pay poverty wages? Acclaimed sociologist Matthew Desmond draws on history, research, and original reporting to show how affluent Americans knowingly and unknowingly keep poor people poor.					
Oct 5	The Shadow Docket: How the Supreme Court Uses Stealth Rulings to Amass Power and Undermine the Republic by Stephen Vladeck Since 2017, the Court has dramatically expanded its use of the behind-the-scenes "shadow docket," regularly making decisions that affect millions of Americans without public hearings and without explanation, through cryptic late-night rulings that leave lawyers—and citizens—scrambling. The Court's conservative majority has used the shadow docket to green-light restrictive voting laws and bans on abortion, and to curtail immigration and COVID vaccine mandates. But Americans of all political stripes should be worried about what the shadow docket portends for the rule of law					
Nov 2	Fool Me Once: Scams, Stories, and Secrets from the Trillion-Dollar Fraud Industry by Kelly R Pope A riveting look at the perpetrators, victims, and whistleblowers behind financial crimes. Have you ever wondered why Bernie Madoff thought he could brazenly steal his clients' money? Or why investors were so easily duped by Elizabeth Holmes? Or how courageous people are willing to become whistleblowers? Fraud is everywhere, from Nigerian "princes," embezzlers, and Ponzi schemers to corporate giants like Enron and Volkswagen. Each year, consumers, small businesses, governments, and corporations lose trillions of dollars to financial crime.					



# SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS\* REGULAR BOARD MEETING

August 7, 2023 • 5:30pm • Via Zoom

#### A. MEETING ADMINISTRATION

**April 15, 2023 Minutes**: K. Brook made a motion to approve the minutes of the 4/15/23 Annual Business Meeting; it was seconded by L. Marquez. The motion carried unanimously.

**June 19, 2023 Minutes**: K. Brook made a motion to approve the minutes of the 6/19/23 Board meeting as amended; it was seconded by K. Mangelsdorf. The motion carried unanimously.

#### B. CO-PRESIDENTS and OFFICERS REPORTS

1. **Co-Presidents' Report** - Update on December Social and Legislative Conversation: J. Galván Nash reported that she sent an email to every legislator asking for legislative conflicts dates in December but received no response except from one representative. She also contacted several venues for room availability. She then asked for volunteers for an ad hoc committee to continue with planning. Volunteers are K. Brook, E. Jaramillo, and B. Bardwell; Beth will serve as the chair.

#### 2. Vice President Report/Meeting Topics

- a. Update Aug. 12, 2023 General Meeting (Future of Libraries): B. Bardwell reported that an email message will be sent to LWVSNM members about the general meeting featuring a panel discussion on the *Future of the Public Library*. It will be moderated by LWVSNM member Dr. Jennifer Kreie and will include librarians from the Las Cruces, Anthony, and Alamogordo. An invitation to attend will also be extended to AAUW and the Friends of the Library.
- b. Report on Electronic Vote, July 16, 2023 Hanover Insurance Coverage: E. Jaramillo reported that an electronic vote was taken on July 16, 2023, where K. Brook made a motion that J. Galván Nash and K. Kanim choose between Options 1 and 2 and purchase director's and officer's insurance similar to what we had in the past from the Hanover Insurance Group. The motion was seconded by K. Mangelsdorf and the motion was approved.

#### C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. 3<sup>rd</sup> Discussion and Approval of Policy on Formation of a New Geographic Unit: A motion was made by E. VanWie to approve the policy as amended; it was seconded by K. Brook. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. 3<sup>rd</sup> Discussion and Approval of Revisions to "Dues Process Procedure": A motion was made by E. VanWie to approve the "Dues Process Procedure" as amended during the discussion; it was seconded by L. Marquez. One change is to no longer provide a reimbursement of dues to someone who opts to rescind their membership. The motion carried unanimously.

#### D DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

- 1. Voter Services Update, Local & State
  - Discussion and Approval of LC Bulletin Voters' Guide Estimate: A motion was made by K. Brook to put the English Voters' Guide with the newspaper's ads and save \$139; it was seconded by K. Kanim. The motion carried unanimously. The accepted bid includes: 12,000 printed copies (500 to be used for Development), at a final cost of either \$3,174.22 or \$2,976.24 (minus the \$139.00), depending on whether there will be 16 or 12 pages, respectively. The bid also provides free advertising to LWVSNM.
- 2. Development: Discussion of Additional Voter Guides: A motion was made by E. VanWie to print 12,000 copies of the Voters Guide with 500 copies earmarked for the Development Plan; it was seconded by K. Mangelsdorf. The motion carried unanimously.

#### E. ADJOURNMENT



#### LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Meeting

August 7, 2023

Observer: Kathy Brook

Public participation topics included vandalism and the response of the legal system to petty crimes, the kill rate at the animal services center and the establishment of a memorial to a child within Veterans' Park.

A resolution to approve an MOU pertaining to a tax increment for development and possible annexation of property owned by NMSU was tabled and a resolution to change the name of the Convention and Visitors Advisory Board to the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board was approved. Linda Samples, the new city attorney, and Steven Bingham, the new director of Parks and Recreation, were introduced and the relaunch of the Neighborhood Leadership Academy was announced.

#### LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Work Session

August 14, 2023

Observer: Kathy Brook

Report on Internal Audit: The Oversight Committee reviews the audit and may provide comments. Internal Audit oversees the hotline and the OIR contract.

Report on the Oversight Committee chaired by Jack Eakman: This included a presentation on the roles of Inspectors general in the Army and the federal government. The city has created a position for inspector general and one purpose of the presentation was to orient city council to the need to identify the purpose to be served by a city inspector general. The city's inspector general Jim Reed has been serving since January 2023.

# LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Meeting

August 21, 2023

Observer: Kathy Brook

Public participation topics included concern about a letter sent from the City to local veterinarians to explore ways to offer low cost spay and neuter services, ongoing feedback concerning placement of a memorial to a child in Veterans' Park, and the poor condition of the US flag that was recently flying over city hall. The Council approved modification of the Fair Housing Ordinance to ban discrimination based on income sources that are lawful, such as housing vouchers and Social Security income. LWVSNM members Beth Bardwell and Liz Rodriguez-Johnson spoke in favor of the modification. Other approved resolutions included demolition of an abandoned construction project at 430 S. Main and reduction in the size of the University District Citizens Design Review Committee from seven to five members.

At the end of the meeting, City Manager Pili apologized for the condition of the flag and tried to clear up misunderstandings involving the letter to veterinarians.



### LCPS BOARD OF EDUCATION • Regular Meeting

August 15, 2023, 6:00 pm Observer: Eileen VanWie

Members Present: President Teresa Tenorio, VP Pam Cort, Secretary Robert Wofford, Carol Cooper and Patrick Nolan, members.

There were five people who made public comments. The first related to special education organizational issues. LWVSNM member spoke about performance assessment as it relates to LCPS policy ILBB-District Assessment Program. One person repeated his disapproval of the book *Jack of Hearts* found at Mayfield High School as not being appropriate for high school students. Another person also had issues with this book. Another person described restroom issues.

New superintendent Ignacio Ruiz shared some of his recent activities with LCPS, such as visiting a variety of schools to get acquainted. There was lengthy discussion about transportation issues. There are three school buses without air conditioning, but other buses have had issues with their air conditioners. Communications among parents, the STS bus company, and LCPS transportation support staff need to be improved.

NM Legislator Representative Nathan Small, House Appropriations and Finance Committee Chair, shared information about how the state budget has positively impacted LCPS. Teacher salaries have become competitive regionally, federal funding supports community schools, opportunities have been made for students to experience internships, and there has been funding for after school programing.

Architects for the new Columbia School building showed a 3D video of the design. A few suggestions for change to the design were made.

A long discussion of the Updated Policy ILBB proceeded the 4-1 vote for approval. Federal guidelines do not allow "opt out" of summative assessment, but it allows states to provide the option. New Mexico does not provide an "opt out" option. LCPS Attorney Elena Gallegos noted in the Executive Summary of the policy that there may be a local option to develop such a policy. More research will take place to better understand what could be done locally. The district is working on alternative forms of assessment, such as capstone projects and portfolio assessment. It has begun in middle schools.

*Graduate Profile*: This year is for educator and student awareness and learning about the nine competencies (honest, self-aware, empathetic, confident, productive, responsible, independent and critical thinkers, effective communicators, and problem solvers) with key performance indicators. This month students are focused on developing the *productive* competency. The key performance indicator of being productive is participating actively in class discussions, group work, asking questions, and demonstrating interest in learning.

# REVISED TREASURER'S REPORT — JULY 2023

#### PREPARED ON 08.01.23 • LOUISE MARQUEZ, TREASURER

DATE	DETAIL			A	AMOUNT
	BALANCE FORWARD			\$	9,057.32
<b>NEW INCOME</b> 7/3/2023	PayPal Deposit				
		3-1: Member Dues \$	65.00		
	4-5: Do	onations/Gifts in Addition to Dues \$	0.67		
				\$	65.67
7/15/2023	PayPal Deposit				
		3-1: Member Dues \$	162.50		
				\$	162.50
	TOTAL INCOME			\$	228.17
NEW EXPENSES				\$	
7/14/2023	Check 1163: We Are IT- 14-2: Website - Updates to Website				97.37
7/14/2023	Check 1164: Consumer Cellular - 10-1: Board Expenses - Telephone				20.97
				\$	
	TOTAL NEW EXPENSES				118.34
				\$	
	TOTAL CASH ON HAND				9,167.15
COMMITTED FUNDS	Consider Language Water			<u> </u>	
8/1/2023	Spanish Language Voter	hh		\$	-
8/1/2023	·	emberships Paid 6/1/23		\$	220.00
8/1/2023	Youth Engagement Fund			\$	625.00
8/1/2023	Social Media Fund			\$	250.00
8/1/2023	New Mexico Listens Project			\$ ¢	500.00
8/1/2023	Voter Services			\$ \$ <b>\$</b>	1 505 60
	TOTAL COMMITTED FUNDS			<u> </u>	1,595.00



# **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Send this Membership Form with Your Dues and/or Donation

Date:	New member? Y / N	Renewal? Y / N *St	tudent? Y / N
Last Name:		First Name:	
Address:		City/State/Zip:	·
Phone #		Email:	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Household Meml	ber: New Member? Y / N	Renewal? Y / N *St	tudent? Y / N
Last Name		First Name	
Address		City/State/Zip	
Phone #	Email		
Student Members (a	ge 16+): List current school: _		
What League issues a	are you most passionate about	? Circle any that apply:	
Voting Rights	Elections	Education/Youth	Redistricting
Gun Safety	Immigration/Border Issues	Health Care	Climate/Environment
Legislation	Local Government	Social Justice/JEDI	Jobs/Economy
Other:			
What skill set or interest	est do you want to offer to the l	_eague?	
Send the N	Membership Form with Your	Dues and/or Donation •	THANK YOU!
ANNUAL MEMBER	SHIP:		
	id in May of each year. If pa ember 🏻 \$32.50 for second		
www.lwvsnm.org	le to LWVSNM. Send to: PC ing PayPal or Credit Card. ( ms can be emailed to: wvsr	An additional \$2.50 is ap	preciated to cover
	onation of \$ I requ ☐ Election/Voting-Relat		for:
FOR OFFICE ONLY			
Treasurer Nation	al Data Membership SNM _	Committee New N	Member