

The VOTER

League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
Web Site: www.lwvglc.org
May 2012



Salute to Marnie & Jim Leverett

**Monday, May 14, 2012, 11:30 a.m., Good Samaritan
Social Center, Creative Arts Room**



For Jim's years as LWV/GLC's webmaster and all around technical support.
For Marnie's many and varied contributions to the League in both
leading and supporting roles.

For friendship forged in service and nurtured through all these years of sharing.
We honor the best in League tradition.

If you cannot be there in person, you can send your greetings to Marnie and Jim
at E-mail: jmleverett@gmail.com or 2975 Terrace Dr. (Apt. 315), Las Cruces, 88011

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED - See *Calendar* below, **May 7**, for information. **Lunch \$10.**

CALENDAR

May 7 (Monday) - Deadline for Reservations to Salute Lunch for Marnie and Jim Leverett.
RSVP Bonnie Burn, Tel: 526-0013; E-mail: burnb@comcast.net

May 14 (Monday) - 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Salute Lunch for Marnie and Jim Leverett, 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.

May 21 (Monday) - 1-4 p.m., New Board Orientation, Branigan Library, Roadrunner Room,
Contact: Bonnie Burn, President, Tel: 526-0013, E-mail: burnb@comcast.net

Mark Your Calendar:

May 12 (Saturday) - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., LWVNM Council, Albuquerque, MCM Elegante Hotel,
2020 Menaul N.E.. Contact: Bonnie Burn, President, Tel: 526-0013, E-mail: burnb@comcast.net

June 8-12 - LWVUS Convention, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C. Contact: Bonnie Burn, President, Tel: 526-0013, E-mail: burnb@comcast.net

Notable Dates:

May 13 - Mother's Day
May 17 - Brown v. Board of Education (1954)
May 19 - Armed Forces Day
May 28 - Memorial Day
June 5 - Primary Elections

POWER THE VOTE

The VOTER

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The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

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Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322
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Web Site: www.lwvglc.org

President - Bonnie Burn

Vice President & Program
Erika Graf-Webster

Secretary - Martha Duran

Treasurer - Ruth Benjamins

Director, Membership
Roberta Gran

Co-Director, Voter Services
Gracia Class
Gwen Hanson

Nominating Committee
Chair: Nancy Phillips
Elected Member: Judith Scott

STUDY GROUPS

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

Education
Jane Ashe - 532-8087
Sue Cain - 647-8250

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

Metropolitan Court
Marjorie Burr - 522-2528

ACTION COMMITTEE
Vicki Simons - 522-4813

Web Master - Dale Yeo

Newsletter Editor
Bonnie Burn - 526-0013
burnb@comcast.net

Annual Meeting Highlights

The 2012 Annual Meeting is over, business has been decided, and members got to know each other a little better. Thirty-one members came for breakfast and 26 stayed for the business meeting. Among the things presented, discussed, and decided upon were:

A treasurer’s report from Ruth Benjamins. As directed by members at the 2011 Annual Meeting, the Quicken accounting system has been implemented but not yet perfected. We used a final Excel spreadsheet to report our year-end financial information.

We readopted our Nonpartison Policy and discussed the importance of nonpartisanship in our voter services activities. The President, Director of Voters Services and Chairs of Candidates Forum and Voter Registration, and Editor of *Voters Guide* cannot be politically active.

For FY 2012-2013, the proposed Operating Fund Budget, \$8,873, and Education Fund Budget, \$6,100, were adopted

Our current study positions, including positions on Public Education in the City of Las Cruces and Affordable Housing for Doña Ana County were adopted. A new study, “Impediments to Voter Participation in Doña Ana County,” was adopted for study during 2012-2013. A non-recommended study, “Immigration Issues in Doña Ana County,” was not adopted. Members thought further study wasn’t necessary and supported using the LWVUS position on immigration for taking action. Advocacy priorities for the upcoming year are education, affordable housing, and other legislation that arises on which we have positions.

The Nominating Committee Slate of Officers and Directors was unanimously elected:

Vice President & Program	Erika Graf Webster (2012-2014)
Secretary	Martha Duran (2012-2014)
Co-Directors, Voter Service	Gracia Class & Gwen Hanson (2012-2014)
Treasurer	Ruth Benjamins (2012-2013)
Nominating Committee	Nancy Phillips, Chair, (2012-2013) Sadie Valverde , Elected member (2012-2013)

Bonnie Burn, President, and Roberta Gran, Director of Membership, will continue on the Board to completion of their terms of office in 2013.

The new Board will hold its first orientation/planning meeting on May 21. See Calendar for details.

**The quality of an organization
can never exceed the quality of the minds
that make it up
Dwight David Eisenhower**

President's Message

It's a new League year! The summary on p. 2 gives information about all that was accomplished at our Annual Meeting. We've elected some new League members to our Board, and I am looking forward to working with them. Our first organizational meeting is on May 21, so look for news about our plans in the June issue.



In the past month, I've accepted several invitations to speak with community groups about the League and the women's suffrage movement: the United Way Community Agencies Group (April 4), Mayfield High Government Class (April 9), and a government class at NMSU (April 16). In each of these presentations, I added information about the newly adopted voting districts and voter suppression.

In my presentation at United Way, I was asked the question about the year that Native American's received the right to vote. Not knowing the answer, I researched the topic and learned that, although born in the United States, Native American's were not granted citizenship. Instead, the tribes were thought of as "domestic dependent nations," a situation similar to people in an occupied land under the control of a foreign power. They did not have the right to vote even after serving in

(Continued on page 6)



Selected as Champion of Change

Rose Garcia

Executive Director of Tierra del Sol and League member

As part of President Obama's efforts to recognize individuals across the nation who are making positive contributions to winning the future, Rose Garcia was named a Champion of Change on March 28. Along with other candidates, she traveled to Washington, D.C., and received her award in the White House with a handshake from the President himself.

We, of course, recognized Rose as the champion she is through our interactions with her on the Affordable Housing Study and at local government meetings where the League has advocated on this issue. If you Google Champions of Change Rose Garcia, you will find her on the White House web page. Click on Blog and travel to page 7, 8 or farther to read her full story.

My success is beholden to the people who have come to believe that collectively we can effect change and can bring significant improvements to the lives of our clients

DONATING TO THE LEAGUE

Use the convenience of

PAY PAL

Log on to www.lwvglc.org
Scroll down to DONATE
Make your selection and follow the commands.

Thank you

VOLUNTEER SURVEYORS NEEDED

to collect cost-of-living data for Las Cruces that is used in a comparison of 314 other urban areas surveyed.

This public service is performed by the Council for Community and Economic Research.

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

Friends of the League

John Ameriks, M.D.
Reed R. Burn
Biad Chile Ltd. Co.
Joseph P. Camunez, D.D.S.
Edward Jones - Connie Lee
Lilley Law Offices
Louise P. Lockhart
Barbara Myers
Francisco Mario Ortiz Law Firm
Wanda Skowlund
Tom Tate
Zia Engineering & Environment Consultants

Thank You

LIFESTYLE 2012 EXPO

Southwest Senior Sponsors Event on March 23 and 24 Las Cruces Convention Center



Erika Graf-Webster, Judith Scott, Roberta Gran, and Bonnie Burn staff the League booth at the second annual Southwest Senior Lifestyle Expo. Wearing suffrage sashes, Roberta and Bonnie are ready to help visitors with voter registration. Erika and Judith are conducting a “straw poll” to help us understand the issues that are important to voters during this election year. Visitors tossed pennies into mason jars to cast their votes for their choices of three issues.

Dale Yeo and Marjorie Burr join Bonnie in getting into the “suffrage mood.” Again sashes (purple, white, and gold) are the motif; however, Dale adds a hat to her costume along with a green stripe in her sash that recognizes the green color used by suffragists in Europe. The sign above their heads not only calls out the League’s name but makes note that “Power the Vote” is the theme adopted by LWVUS to help increase voter participation in the upcoming general election.



This was the first time the League was invited to participate in the Expo. At our booth to attract visitors, we also sold bracelets for a nominal amount, and distributed our Who’s Who and Member Recruitment brochures. Additionally, we presented information seminars about our studies of affordable housing in Doña Ana County and public education in the City of Las Cruces and how the “Women’s Suffrage Movement Morphed into the League of Women Voters.” Some of our League members staffed the entrance table and helped collect \$3 donations that will be shared among charitable organizations, including the League.

The theme of this two-day trade show was a nostalgic trip back into the ‘50s. Along with display booths, there was a car show featuring 1950 model vehicles, and a sock hop on Saturday evening. Some “worker bees” were clad in poodle skirts and saddle shoes.

The results of the “straw poll” were published in the Las Cruces Sun-News. There were 400 votes cast. Jobs and the budget deficit were the two leading issues, while campaign finance came in last with 6% of the vote.

Thank you to the League members (*See Expo Angels*) who helped make this event a success and to Keith Whelpley who gave us this opportunity.





League News



EXPO ANGELS

Johnnie Aldrich	Ellen Haltom
Shirley Armstrong	Gwen Hanson
Jane Asche	Win Jacobs
Ruth Benjamins	Christina Little
Sharon Burbano	William Little
Bonnie Burn	Nancy Phillips
Bob Burn	Judith Scott
Alex Burr	Vicki Simons
Marjorie Burr	Sadie Valverde
Sue Cain	Dale Yeo
Mickey Curtis	Chair:
Roberta Gran	Erika Graf-Webster

LEAGUE ABOUT TOWN

J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium (2012) focused on the quality of life as a social justice issue. The event began on Sunday afternoon, March 23, and continued on Monday, March 24. It was co-chaired by Doña Ana County Commissioner Billy Garrett, Sarah Nolan, Executive Director of CAFé (Comunidades en Acción y de Fé). It brought together representatives from many of the communities in the county, who shared their stories and began the process of building coalitions to improve quality of life for all of us.

The second day focused on data derived from the 2010 U.S. Census. Examples of statistics relevant to Doña Ana County (DAC) follow:

	Avg. U.S.	Avg. NM	Avg. DAC
Unemployment	7.9%	7.2%	9.0%
Living Below Poverty Level			
Persons	13.8%	18.4%	25.7%
Families	10.1%	13.9%	31.9%
Single Parents Heads of Household	25.7%	29.0%	31.9%
Public Assistance			
Food Stamps/Snap	10.0%	10.7%	13.3%
Medicaid	15.9%	24.5%	30.85-38.45%
Medium Income	\$51,914	\$43,820	\$31,130

Symposium (Continued). A values statement and activities to develop human capabilities were presented. A calendar lists dates and locations for upcoming events that offer opportunities for discussion (e.g., Chaparral, Radium Springs, Hatch) and training (e.g., collective impact, building social capital, and empowerment to effect change in policy). For more information: 523-6580, Jake Rollow, or log on to: <http://jpts.nmsu.edu>.

Power the Vote: Our first activity under this LWVUS theme was to register voters. In fact, during the spring, the League has helped 132 voters either register for the first time or change their registration information. Our tally is

- 26 - Healthy U Event
- 36 - Lifestyle 2012 Expo
- 62 - Mayfield High School
- 12 - Community of Hope, Camp Hope

Voter registration for the Primary Election closes on May 5. We plan to develop a robust schedule of voter registration during the summer months. We want to say thank you our new voter registrar agents: Martha Duran, Ruth Benjamins, Judith Scott, Nancy Phillips, Marjorie Burr, and Aletta Wilson.

On March 31, some of us participated in the "GOTV," that is Get Out the Vote training sponsored by CAFé. This was an opportunity to learn techniques for canvassing and telephoning. Representatives from the Center for Civic Policy and Southwest Organizing Project facilitated the event. Both are nonpartisan organizations that focus on turning out registered but unlikely to vote individuals. The infrequent voter is often a person of color, a single woman, or youth between the ages of 18-25.

Voting Convenience Centers (VCC): The Primary Election will introduce voting convenience centers when Early Voting begins on May 8 at the Government Center at 845 N. Motel, and at alternate locations beginning May 19. No longer will you have to vote at the "correct" precinct. Watch local newspapers to learn about the VCC closest to your home or place of work. Call the Bureau of Elections with questions: 647-7428.

President's Message *(Continued from page 3)*

World War I. The Indian Citizenship Act passed in 1924 granted citizenship to all Native Americans born in the U.S.—four years after women got the vote and more than 50 years after the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified (1870) allowing former male slaves to vote. Since voting is a state responsibility, those states with Native American populations began changing their constitutions to grant the right to vote to Native Americans. Arizona did so in 1948, and New Mexico (1962) was the last state to grant that right.

We are all aware of voter suppression as a strategy to influence the outcome of an election by discouraging or preventing people from exercising their right to vote. Our most recent state experience was the photo ID legislation defeated during the recent NM legislative session. Requirements placed on third party voter registrars greatly affects local Leagues. The state League in Florida is suing the legislature over time required to turn in completed applications and the stiff penalties involved if the time schedule is not met.

At each presentation, I re-enforce the League's belief that "for democracy to work, the ability to vote must be extended to every eligible citizen without discrimination based on race, sex, income, education or failure to possess a government issued photo ID. **POWER THE VOTE.**

Bonnie Burn

CALL TO COUNCIL

League of Women Voters of New Mexico
Saturday, May 12, 2012, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul N.E
 Albuquerque

Hosted by LWV of Central New Mexico
 Cost: \$20

Tentative Agenda

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 9:30 - 10 a.m. | Registration |
| 10 - 11:45 a.m. | Business Meeting |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer's Report • Presentation & Adoption of Budget Changes • Report from state committees • Reports from local Leagues |
| Noon | LUNCH |
| 12:30 - 1:15 p.m. | Speaker |
| 1:15 - 3 p.m. | LWVNM Board Meeting |

Guest Speaker: Peg Hill is a director on the LWVUS Board and is liaison to LWVNM. She chaired the LWVUS Study, Role of Federal Government in Public Education.

Registration form is available in next column.

COUNCIL REGISTRATION FORM

Please send completed Council registration form and a check for \$20 payable to LWVNM by **May 7**. Mail to: LWV of Central New Mexico, 2315 San Pedro NE, F-6, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

I am attending as (Please check one)

- Local League delegate from _____
- Member-at-Large (MAL) delegate*
- LWVNM Board Member*
- Non-delegate member/observer/guest
 (Please circle one)

*LWVNM Board members and MAL delegates should NOT send a check with their registration. Instead, contact State Treasurer Cheryl Haaker, who will be paying your registration fee. Phone: 505-298-7415 or email Cheryl@haaker.org

Call 505-884-8441 with questions

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.

Las Cruces Public School Board Meeting, April 17, 2012, 6:30 –8:30 p.m.

Roberta Gran, Observer

Connie Phillips called the meeting to order with all members of the board present.

USDA awarded 18 local elementary schools with the USDA Healthier U.S. Schools Challenge Silver award for special achievement in nutritional excellence. A certificate and \$1,000 to each school were the first awarded in New Mexico.

LCHS Cheer State Championship winners were introduced. This is the first time NM has won this NCAA championship.

Student Transfer Updates: Of the 414 transfer requests, 249 will be assigned to Centennial High School for a total student population of 1200 students. LCHS will have 1900-2000, Mayfield 1900-2000, and Oñate will accommodate 2000+.

Superintendent Rounds reviewed five initiatives to improve student achievement during 2012-2013:

1. LCPS Virtual Academy high school. In response to six charter school applications for virtual high schools, LCPS could be at the forefront of this movement to use more computer learning. Although there was general agreement that teacher-led classes are the best way to educate, LCPS could have a competitive edge and position itself to be a service entity to other Doña Ana County schools.
2. Turn-around is a method used to meet federal and state requirements in excellence of education with focus on more training for teachers and parents to help children at home. Valley View Elementary School is an example. This option reconstitutes teacher staffing, increasing contract days from 184 to 200 for additional teacher planning and preparation, and requiring teachers to complete the National Board Certification. In the second year, contract

days increase to 212 to include 25 days for K, 1, 2, 3 students.

3. JUMP (Joint Ungraded Multi-age Primary) will focus on seven D and F (and some C schools). A team of K-2 teachers will focus on 40 students in each building who are not progressing with peers at reading and math. One goal is to eliminate the stigma of poor performance and create a positive environment to bring the students to proper academic level. There will be a "principal" for this program. This is "developmental pacing" rather than "tracking"—an "early college high school for elementary students." The students will be reintegrated into the regular classroom. Teacher contracts will not add to the budget, and the state has tentatively approved 1700 students for the K Three Plus in this district. There will be 14 classrooms for JUMP to accommodate 280 students. Four days out of the 212 will be "Other Funded."
4. Changing the Equation matches one high school teacher with students in grades 5, 6, and 7 who are having problems with Algebra 1. This pairing will continue for Algebra 2, and Geometry 1 and 2. The two-year program will start with one middle school.
5. Bilingual language program. The goal is for graduates from high school to be proficient in at least two languages, having engaged as well in a content class (Science) in the second language. This requires approval of PFSA. They will be learning dual language, English to Spanish and Spanish students learning English.

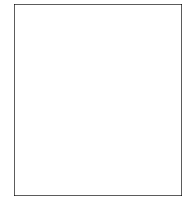
Board Items – Second reading of policy IHB-change reads that Special Ed students will be evaluated within 60 calendar days. This will be up for approval at next meeting.

NM School Board Scholarship. There is a new set of scholarships for each region. Principals and staff will be able to enter candidates. List must be at the state by May 11. The amount of the scholarship is \$1,000. Application is available online.



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FIRST CLASS



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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.