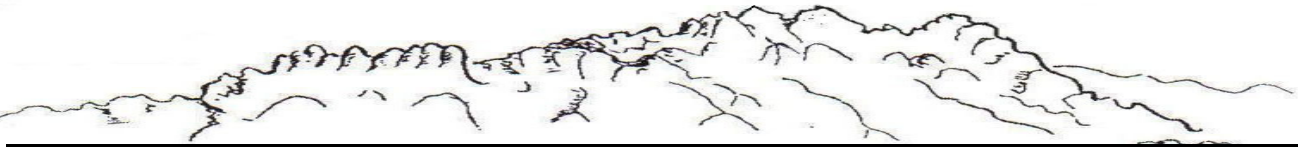


The VOTER

League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
Web Site: www.lwvglc.org
March 2015



Lunch with a Leader

Out of Focus: Our Values, Rights and Laws on the U.S.-Mexican Border

**Brian Erickson, Policy Advocate
American Civil Liberties Union**

**Monday, March 9, 2015
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Good Samaritan Social Center
Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle**

How border communities, families and people experience life in the region is often far more nuanced than the narrow focus of mainstream depictions. This session will explore how laws are enforced in the region, how enforcement impacts civil and human rights, and ultimately how we've lost sight of our basic values in the way we treat border residents as they go about their daily lives. Discussion will explore this theme from the lens of how inadequate oversight and accountability for our nation's largest law enforcement agency, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, has allowed the agency to fall short of reflecting the highest professional policing practices.

Brian Erickson serves as Policy Advocate for the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico's Regional Center for Border Rights (RCBR), located in Las Cruces, NM. Brian joined the RCBR in August 2010 and initially focused on organizing communities through public education regarding civil and human rights. In July 2012, he transitioned into his current role of advocating before members of Congress and the Administration for reforms that promote justice and fairness for all border families. He holds bachelor's degrees in Spanish and Global Studies with a focus on Development and Social Justice from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA and began his career working for just U.S.-Mexico border policy at the Latin America Working Group in Washington, D.C.

**RSVP by March 2, 2015, to Roberta Gran,
(575) 373-8490 or Email: robertagran@q.com**

CALENDAR

March 2 (Monday) - Deadline for making reservations for Lunch with a Leader. RSVP Roberta Gran, Email: robertagran@q.com, Tel: 373-8490

March 5 (Thursday) - 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Board Meeting, City Hall Conference Room 2007A. All are welcome!

March 9 (Monday) - 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Lunch with a Leader: Brian Erickson, Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. \$10. Reservations Required: Roberta Gran, Email: robertagran@q.com, Tel: 373-8490. If reservations are not cancelled, you will be charged.

March 11 (Wednesday) - 9:00 a.m. Attend Immigration Detention Hearings, U.S. Courthouse, 100 North Church St., RSVP Marjorie Burr, 522-2528, Email: burrmmmb@aol.com (see p. 4)

March 19 (Thursday) - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Third Thursday Book Club, "This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate" by Naomi Klein. At the home of Roberta Gran, Email: robertagran@q.com, Tel: 373-8490

Save the Date

April 18 - LWVGLC Annual Meeting

May 15-16 - LWVNM Convention
(Albuquerque)

June 18-21 - LWVUS Council
(Leesburg, VA)

The VOTER

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Usually Published Monthly

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

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Treasurer - Ruth Benjamins

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Johnnie Aldrich

Co-Directors, Voter Services
Marcia Anderson & Dale Yeo

Director, Events and Speakers
Roberta Gran

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Chair: Ardyth Norem
Elected Member: Sue Cain
Board Member: Marcia Anderson

Program for Study & Action

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

Education
Ruth Benjamins - 527-0204

Election Procedures
Ardyth Noreem - 522-0780
Barbara Goedecke - 522-0323

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Vicki Simons - 522-4813

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Cynthia Pelak - (575) 496-3170

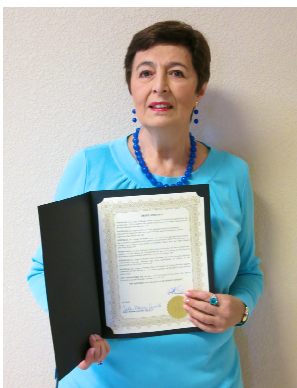
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Roberta Gran - 373-8490

Water Issues
Win Jacobs - 521-9331

ACTION COMMITTEE
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Dale Yeo - 405-7580

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*President's Message*

Both January and February have been very busy months for the League, and for me personally – lots of meetings attended, reports written.

In this column, I'd like to talk about two events, one of which was exciting and gratifying, and the other was just very interesting.

On February 14, 2015, the League turned 95 years old. Well, that's a big milestone – we certainly have been around for a while. We bandied about several ideas at the January Board meeting on how best to celebrate this event. We finally decided that there was just not enough time to plan a big shindig, but we did want to brag about this Birthday in the community. We decided to ask both the City and the County for recognition of this milestone. Luckily, Bonnie Burn (who probably has every document generated by the League over the last few years) had a copy of a request that was made years ago for another recognition. We did a little modification, and sent it to the City and the County. I received a response on the very next day from the County, saying that Billy Garrett, County Commission Chair, would sponsor this as a proclamation. It took a little longer to hear from the City, but the City also agreed to issue a proclamation about our Birthday. Both ceremonies have taken place, and it was truly gratifying to be able to brag about our League and to bask in the visibility for our League created in the community. Both of the local newspapers also published articles about this. Maybe now is the time to start planning a really BIG SHINDIG for the 100th Birthday in 5 years!

The interesting event that occurred recently dealt with public financing for local elections. Some of you may remember that I participated in a committee appointed by Mayor Miyagishima about a year and a half ago that looked at the Las Cruces ordinance dealing with campaign procedures, including financing and reporting. The result of this committee's work was a clearer and more precise new campaign ordinance that was adopted by the City. At the final presentation of the committee's work to the City Council, I ended by saying they would see me again at some point with a proposal for public financing. I had planned to propose a new study of this issue at our Planning Meeting that occurred on February 9, and to develop a new recommendation for both the City and the County for public campaign financing.

Well, we got beaten to the punch by Common Cause. Late in January, I received an email from Common Cause asking if the League might be interested in working with them on developing

(Continued on Page 3)

President’s Message *(Continued from page 2)*

public financing recommendations for Las Cruces (at this point, Common Cause is not focusing on the County). My response was a resounding YES. We have met with Craig Fenske of Common Cause, and have invited him to our next Election Procedures Committee meeting for further discussion. My belief is that public financing of elections is the only way to get Big Money out of local elections, and I’m looking forward to the League playing a big role in making that come about.

Erika

Immigration Detention Hearing: Court Observation (See p. 4 ----->)

February Board Meeting Highlights

Johnnie Aldrich reported that we have two new members, Mary Litts and Rosemarie Sanchez, as a result of their attendance at the School Board Election Candidates Forum. Dale Yeo reported that work has begun on the new Who’s Who, and that she will need additional help for finding and verifying new contact information for the elected officials (To help contact Dale Yeo, 575-405-7530 or y.dale43@gmail.com.)

The Election Procedures Committee had submitted a draft revision of our Election Procedures position based on the recommendations of the Voting Impediments study and on the need to remove outdated information in that position. After some discussion, the Board made a couple of minor amendments, and then approved the revised position. This revised position will be announced to the membership for approval at the Annual meeting in April.

The Budget committee, consisting of Ruth Benjamins and Marcia Anderson, and the Bylaws Committee, consisting of Erika Graf-Webster and Yvonne Magdalena Flores, were activated in preparation for the Annual Meeting.

Viki Harrison, President of Common Cause NM, was a guest at the Board meeting. She explained that Common Cause has started an effort to recommend public campaign financing for City Council candidates. Viki also described the public campaign financing that had been adopted by both Albuquerque and Santa Fe, and that the candidates who chose to participate did pretty well – a majority of them won. Craig Fenske is working the issue locally for Common Cause, and did a presentation on the subject to the City Council at their meeting on February 3. The League is being invited to collaborate with Common Cause on this effort.



**Membership Directory
New Members**

Mary Litts
1890 Palm Canyon Dr.
Las Cruces, NM 88011
Cell: (319) 330-5755
Email: marylitts2@yahoo.com

Rosemarie Sanchez
3931 Tiger Woods
Las Cruces, NM 88011
Cell: (575) 650-3545
Email: rmelon@nmsu.edu

**MARCH
WOMEN’S HISTORY
MONTH:**

8 - International Women’s Day
15-21 - Open Meeting Sunshine Week

League Friends

Sharon Burbano
Bob Burn
Joseph Camunez, DDS
Don Dresp
Joy Goldbaum
Ken & Nancy Hall
Pat Kratz
Louise Lockhart
Barbara Myers
Clifford Pelton
Nancy Phillips
Betty Pool
Judith Scott
Sunspot Solar Energy
Donna Tate

Thank you



Immigration Detention Hearings: Court Observation

Marjorie Burr, Coordinator

A national debate on immigration policy--more than just political bickering--is a possibility this year. Some of the issues to be considered are border security, the disposition of long-time residents who do not have documents, the deportation of those who have broken the law, and the long waiting times for those applying for legal immigration into this country. These are issues that are given real-life background stories and human dimensions as individuals who have run afoul of the current U.S. law are brought before the Federal District Court in Las Cruces. We have arranged for the League to observe the criminal court there where immigration cases are heard, along with other cases under federal jurisdiction.

On Wednesday, March 11, at 9:00 a.m., League members will meet in the first floor lobby of the Federal Court House at 100 N. Church Street. Judge Carmen Garza will meet us there. We will attend a session of the court, and then she has arranged for some of the officers of the court to speak with us. Do not bring a cell phone or any sharp or pointed objects with you. Parking is available north of the building. Reservations are required. This is an excellent opportunity to see first-hand a component of the immigration process. We urge you to attend.

RSVP Contact Marjorie Burr

522-2528, burrmmb@aol.com, if you plan to attend

March IS Women's History Month

Bonnie Burn, Reporting

In 1980, the National Women's History Project (NWHHP), an American non-profit organization, was founded by a group of women living in Santa Rosa, California: Molly Murphy MacGregor, Mary Ruthsdotter, Maria Cuevas, Paul Hammett, and Betty Morgan. Their efforts sought to remedy the situation that no more than three per cent of content in textbooks was devoted to women.

Through their efforts, the U.S. Congress first recognized the week of March 8 as Women's History Week. In 1987, the celebration and recognition was expanded to the entire month of March.

NWHHP is celebrating its 35th Anniversary. With a focus on diversity, it has become a clearing house for providing information and training in multicultural women's history. I have purchased supplies from its store to display information about women's history at Branigan Library and Mayfield High School and for the 90th Anniversary of the League of Women Win the Vote in 2010.

In celebration of its anniversary, NWHHP is offering a collection of information about the suffrage movement compiled in one location, "Winning the Vote: the Triumph of the American Women Suffrage Movement" by Robert P.J.

Cooney, Jr. I have a copy and the League gifted a copy to the Branigan Library. This book, through pictures and narrative, captures the suffrage movement, its passion, disappointments, and excitement. It is a coffee table book or a great recognition/appreciation gift. During its anniversary celebration, NWHHP is offering this book at a 40% discount (\$51) from its original price of \$85. To order:

**Web: <http://www.nwhp.org>
Tel: (707) 636-2888 or Fax: (707) 636-2909**

I hope you will enjoy your copy as much as I am enjoying mine.





League News



Program Planning for Study and Action (2015-2016)

In anticipation of the 2015 Annual Meeting, twenty-five members participated in a program planning meeting that will recommend studies or action for the upcoming League year (2015-2016) at the local and state levels.

The meeting opened with reports from each of our active studies: affordable housing, education, voting impediments, quality of life, water interest group, election procedures, and health care. Full reports from these committees will be published in the Annual Meeting VOTER.

To adopt a new study, the following criteria have to be met: (1) Is there widespread member interest? (2) Is this a timely issue? (3) Is government action the most effective way to address the issue? **Having enough League members** volunteer to complete new studies was discussed at length, an issue that affected two of our League studies during 2014-2015.

Proposed Recommendations for New Studies

- included the following:
- **Metropolitan Court Study:** Marjorie Burr, chair of the completed study committee, proposed reviewing the current position in light of current changes: (1) magistrate judges must now be attorneys per NM statutes, and (2) the county population requirements to replace a magistrate court with a metropolitan court is now 250,000. Marjorie Burr, Ellen Haltom, Bonnie Burn, and Kelly Burnham were identified as committee members.
 - **Factors (including voter suppression) that Hinder Voter Turnout in Doña Ana County.** An outgrowth of the Voting Impediments Study, the objective of this study is to increase voter turnout by

identifying factors that keep registered voters from voting and by identifying remedies.

- **The Effect of the Three Levels of Government on the Major Factors that Determine Quality of Life (QoL).** The QoL study identified quality of life factors such as education, health, transportation, etc. This study proposes to determine the extent of the effect of federal, state, county, city/town/village on each of these factors and recommend methods for increased voter participation that would influence the outcome for these factors. The study would concentrate on the impact of the state and local governmental bodies on the quality of life factors.

The **League of Women Voters of New Mexico** is holding its biennial convention, May 15-17, in Albuquerque. All NM local Leagues are asked to submit program planning for study and action items for approval at its Board meeting in March, and for member approval at the convention. The Greater Las Cruces League discussed its recommendations after lunch. Here are the recommendations.

Recommended for Review/Revision of Existing LWVNM Positions:

- **Education position:** Strongly urge LWVNM Board to consolidate current LWVNM education position with LWVGLC's education position and adopt by concurrence at state convention.
- **Election Procedures:** review current position, especially statement, "an all-inclusive system of voting that allows all registered voters to participate in the primary election," in light of legislation being considered in the 2015 NM Legislative Session. Depending on the outcome, review LWVNM's position and bill language to potentially reconcile the two.
- **Drug Policy Position Regarding Driving While Intoxicated:** Current position wording, "The League supports strong and equitable penalties for all offenders, including first

(Continued on page 6)



League News



Program Planning *(Continued from page 5)*

offenders." These last three words are directly contrary to the recommendations and language of the LWVUS position on this issue. Wording will be developed to forward to LWVNM for consideration

The LWVGLC Board will consider these recommendations at its meeting in March and forward its recommendations for program planning for study and action to LWVNM for consideration at its March 29 meeting

League Undertakes Collaborative Efforts in Community

At the annual program planning for study and action meeting held on February 9, President Graf-Webster pointed out that League members do much more than participate in studies of specific issues. League members also work with other organizations and attend numerous meetings as participants or observers, a "watchdog" role. Here is a list that formalizes the description of our work.

- Collaborate with Common Cause New Mexico to develop a proposal for public financing of local elections.
- Observe or participate in governmental and other non-profit organization meetings.
- Review community planning documents, such as Viva Doña Ana and the Las Cruces sustainability and comprehensive plans.
- Work on coordinated efforts with other organizations, (e.g., development and distribution of *Voters Guides* and conducting voter registrations) and investigate participation in some jointly sponsored activities.

- Work for larger voter turnout. Look into establishing League affiliated groups in local high schools, Doña Ana Community College, and New Mexico State

University for spreading information about the League's work and growing League membership.

After lunch, Marisol Diaz, Community Connections Coordinator for the Ocotillo Institute, a branch of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, took the floor to tell us about the Empowerment Congress, a component of the Ocotillo Institute and its sponsorship of upcoming Leadership Empowerment Academy.

The academy is a series of one-hour meetings to which resident leaders of the small communities in Doña Ana County will be invited. In essence, it will be workshops in community government. LWVGLC members are invited to participate in the Academy, maybe even teach a session. Ms. Diaz will attend the League's March Board meeting to further explore collaboration with the League in this effort.

Sue Cain, who is working on immigration issues, distributed copies of two flyers one published by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), made available to the Hispanic community. Both flyers offer legal advice about how to deal with Border Patrol and other immigration agents.

Sue also described ENLACE (**EN**gaging **LA**tino **C**ommunities for Education), an organization designed to "Engage Youth to Become Leaders in our Schools and Communities."

Finally, President Graf-Webster made available copies of the Common Cause document "Public Campaign Financing 101". Judy LaPointe volunteered to attend the April 27 Work Session of the LC City Council when the possibility of public financing for local elections will be discussed. Erika asked all attendees to inform her about any public meetings of organizations at

(Continued on page 7)

Collaboration *(Continued from page 6)*

which our League should have at least an observer, if not be a participant.

The 2015 Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Plan - Kurt Anderson, Member, Water Issues

The 2004 Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Plan (LRGRWP) is being revised and updated to be incorporated into a State Water Plan. A local Steering Committee and Working Groups have been established to undertake this revision under the auspices of the Interstate Stream Commission. The intent of this effort is to examine the regional water supply, the forecasts for future demands upon this supply, and to suggest how these future demands can be met.

The Lower Rio Grande Planning Region is essentially Doña Ana County. Its water supply currently consists of Rio Grande Project Water released from Elephant Butte Reservoir, and groundwater pumped mostly from the Mesilla Basin. Essentially 100% of the Rio Grande water in this region is Project Water and fully committed to agricultural use. As of 2013, 86% of groundwater diversions from the Mesilla Basin was also going to irrigated agriculture, about 11%, was pumped for municipal and domestic use, and only about 3% was diverted for other commercial, industrial and agricultural uses.

The problem confronting the Lower Rio Grande Region is the current agricultural drought which began about 2003. Almost all of our surface water comes from the Rio Grande whose headwaters arise in the mountains of Colorado. Light winter snowfalls and higher temperatures have resulted in significant reductions in the amount of Rio Grande water arriving at Elephant Butter Reservoir and made available for irrigated agriculture. In the absence of adequate Project Water, irrigators have increasingly turned to massive

pumping of groundwater from the Mesilla Basin. Agricultural irrigators are competing with other users for this finite groundwater resource. Groundwater is being extracted at a rate roughly ten times the rate at which is being replenished (“recharged”) by rainfall or the greatly reduced flow in the Rio Grande below Elephant Butte. Therein lies the problem: we are extracting groundwater from a finite resource which, unless things change, will become effectively exhausted within this century.

Long-term climatological forecasts indicate that drought-like conditions will prevail in the desert southwest well into the 21st century and beyond. Water conservation measures cannot provide a full solution to the resulting shortage. This is because agriculture is the dominant consumer of both surface and groundwater, and most of the water used to grow any crop is necessarily lost to the atmosphere through transpiration - evaporation from leaves and other plant surfaces. Realistically, the Lower Rio Grande Region must either find fundamentally new sources of water and/or significantly reduce the water requirements of regional agriculture. The first alternative would probably be prohibitively expensive, the second would likely prove devastating to agriculture in Doña Ana County. Either approach will entail severe environmental, social, and political costs.


**Sunshine Week
March 15-21, 2015**

Sunshine Week coincides with James Madison’s birthday and National Freedom of Information day, March 16. In 2002 the Florida Society of Newspaper Editors took steps to stop attempts of Florida legislators to enact new exemptions to the state’s public records law. The first nationwide Sunshine week took place March 13-19, 2005. New Mexico Foundation for Open Government, Albuquerque, works to ensure “sunshine” in New Mexican governments. [Source: Wikipedia]

What League Membership Means To Me.

Johnnie Aldrich, Director, Membership

A few years ago, I invited one of my neighbors, a young mother, to attend one of our League functions. She seemed to enjoy the conversation at the potluck and appreciated the information we received that evening, but when I asked whether she'd be interested in joining us formally, she declined. When I pressed for a reason, she said hesitantly, "I don't know really; I guess it's the name."

I was a bit shocked and did not ask for clarification. In my mind, the League of Women Voters has one of the most honorable names in the history of activism in our nation. I had been attracted to the organization especially because of its name and reputation.

Certainly, we all have different reasons for our association with the League.

- For some of us, LWV is a family tradition; our mothers were members.
- For some of us, LWV is an opportunity to establish and maintain relationships; some of our current members have been friends for years.
- For some of us, LWV represents an opportunity to meet people and be informed about the new culture in which we find ourselves; several newcomers have joined us in recent years.
- For some of us, LWV's reputation for non-partisanship is the organization's most attractive feature.

It is this last reason for joining the League that is, for me, the most important.

As a child I was strongly influenced by an intensely partisan, highly "political" family. My maternal grandfather knew everything knowable about Texas politics and sports. These grandparents went to church twice on Sunday and once in the middle of the week -- and they voted. Never was there a thought about NOT voting. The procedure was as

much an obligation as church attendance. And their voting was a matter of entering the booth and marking the straight party ticket.

When I became a woman, I put away such behavior. "Independence" seems very much a part of my nature. However, a strong belief in the importance of each vote and the patriotic fervor with which the vote was cast at every opportunity did stay with me. I always voted, even when I was living overseas and doing so involved considerable effort.

In recent years, I've become increasingly disgruntled by political campaigns, by the "ignorance" by so many of our elected representatives, and the ignorance of voters on the issues that are most important to us - health care, maintaining our traditional freedoms while fighting the war on terror, and the burgeoning influence of corporate money in our political system to name just a few. Priorities today, especially among too many professional politicians (and voters), seem skewed. My membership in the League lets me fight those tendencies, gives me a chance to help educate myself and other voters, and allows me to discuss issues without name-calling and rancor.

In any group effort, increasing membership depends primarily upon the members. I challenge each reader to invite a non-member to the next meeting or forum. Not all of the invited will join; my neighbor didn't. But if we can get even one new member a month, we WILL grow! The League of Women Voters is, after all, an organization worthy of the time and effort we have devoted to it.

[Editor's Note: As we celebrate Women's History Month in March and the 95th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters on February 14, it seems apropos to include this article, as a reminder of what League membership means to each of us.]

Ocotillo Institute's Empowerment Congress
Reported by Erika Graf-Webster

The description below is from the Ocotillo Institute's website:

The Ocotillo Institute for Social Justice evolved from the Doña Ana County Quality of Life Initiative in late May 2013.

The Goal of the Quality of Life Initiative in Doña Ana County is to improve the quality of life for its residents by building on individual capabilities and changing conditions that support poverty. It is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The initiative seeks to achieve community goals by building structures for and coalitions of community members and resource providers to create a more equitable and collaborative society that provides opportunities for all to lead good, fulfilling lives.

The Empowerment Congress is a program of the Institute with the mission of bringing community voices together for collective wellbeing. (Note: There are Empowerment Congresses in other parts of the country, creating a good example of structure and action for this local Congress.) The Empowerment Congress is creating networks of the communities within Doña Ana County so that they can effectively address Quality of Life issues that many county residents have in common. The Empowerment Congress staff has been concentrating its work efforts in the smaller communities such as the Colonias within the County, feeling that the city of Las Cruces already has governmental processes and facilities addressing social wellbeing issues, while the smaller outlying communities do not.

Currently, the principal areas of action are: Transportation, Health (not access to health care, but rather focus on the criteria that make a person have good health), and Youth Engagement. They expect to add other areas of action in the future (see January 10 Meeting, next column)

A major thrust of the Empowerment Congress is to build up its membership (the cost of membership is \$15 per year for an individual), and to grow a substantial core of community leaders. A lot of effort is going into the later objective, the primary one being the establishment of the "Empowerment Congress Community Leadership Academy". The Leadership Academy offers a 5-month program with 10 total sessions conducted, meeting twice each week for three hours at a time. The Academy workshops teach community engagement, building leadership teams, raising the level of communication skills for use in public forums and the media, understanding local governmental (county, city, villages, ...) structure and which part of it to contact for specific questions/issues, and how to use collective strength to impact decisions made by governments that affect the well being of residents (zoning, transportation, water allocation, infrastructure improvements, etc.). The Academy offers this program twice a year, and intends to work with Doña Ana Community College (DACC) to eventually turn this into a "for-credit" course.

The Empowerment Congress has recently decided to hold monthly meetings with its membership. These meetings take place on the second Saturday of each month, and last for about 3 hours. Supportive services, such as child care and food, are provided to enable broad attendance.

January 10, 2015 Empowerment Congress Meeting

This meeting started out by defining the "Empowerment Congress" as a "practice of sharing information to make collectively good decisions." The approach is a coming-together and dialoging within the community, so that there is a strong voice of the citizens. The mission of the Congress is inspire, educate, engage, and help people to make better decisions about issues that affect the

(Continued on page 12)

Meeting with Bureau of Elections: Notes (January 30, 2015)
Reported by Erika Graf-Webster

Attendees: Erika Graf-Webster, Gwen Hanson – LWVGLC; Scott Krahling, Chief Deputy County Clerk; and Lorrie Munoz, Bureau of Elections Supervisor.

Purpose: To discuss a collaboration between the League and the Bureau of Elections (BOE) to develop and distribute voter education materials.

At the outset of the meeting, Erika asked Scott if the constitutional amendment that would allow election dates to be merged was dead, since it did not pass by 75% in each county. Scott said: indeed not, the state is waiting for a ruling that, since the amendment was not restricting voting, it didn't need the 75% approval threshold in each county during the latest state-wide election. If this ruling is not in favor of the amendment, the issue will be taken to court.

Scott then talked about proposed bills currently being considered in the legislative session that would affect voting. There are two voter verification bills, one that requires a strict state-issued photo ID (student IDs would be allowed), the other would allow a voter to identify him/herself via either a photo ID OR by providing the full date of birth and social security number.

Another proposed bill would move the deadline for voter registration to the Saturday immediately preceding Election Day, thereby giving voters almost an extra full month to register.

Scott suggested that any development of voter education materials should be postponed until after the end of the legislative session so that these potential changes in voting procedures would be properly captured.

The remainder of the meeting followed the agenda that Erika had developed and sent to the BOE.

- **Brief overview of planned League actions regarding the development and distribution of voter educational materials:** Gwen and Erika described the approach to materials development that the League's Election Procedures Committee has identified. Scott and Lorrie commented on each.
- **Develop handouts, posters, wallet cards, advertising regarding voter registration:** BOE is very happy to develop these in conjunction with the League. Regarding advertising, Scott said that BOE has already hired an advertising consultant who will provide BOE with recommendations for the advertising that would best catch the attention of the county's citizens.
- **Develop videos with KRWG related to voter registration and voting:** BOE will gladly meet with League members and KRWG and help with the development of videos. However, BOE will develop quite a number of videos on their own, but each video will be targeted at a specific segment of the voting process. For example, there will be a video specifically addressing early voting, another video would address the requirements for registration of former felons, etc.
- **Develop a solid distribution plan for these materials:** BOE is strongly in favor of

(Continued on page 11)

working with the League and with other organizations such as the Empowerment Congress and CAFé on distribution of materials.

- **Establish a standard procedure with the Las Cruces Public Schools, DACC and NMSU for annual visits to their civics and government classes for presentation and distribution of voter materials:** BOE has good access to DACC and NMSU, but it has struck out in getting into any high schools. Gwen and Erika explained that the League has good connections with the Las Cruces Public School System (LCPS) due to the League's education study and having a School Board member as an active member of the League's Education Committee. The League will help BOE gain access to high schools if the League is successful in obtaining permission from the LCPS for access.
- **BOE planned actions for 2015 and 2016 elections:** BOE is not involved in the 2015 municipal elections except that it will provide voting machines. They are aiming all their planning for the 2016 Presidential elections.
- **Review BOE's voter educational materials:** BOE said that all they had right now were the Voter brochures that had been provided to the League before. Gwen asked if we could have more of those brochures, and BOE gave us a whole box full.
- **Discuss specific collaboration options for videos, printed material:** BOE is happy to collaborate with the League, with KRWG and with other organizations for the development of voting materials.
- **Discuss how to bring voter registration to the people:** Erika explained that the League's Election Procedures Committee felt that we shouldn't be waiting for citizens to come to specific voter registration places, that we should bring the opportunity to register to citizens. She threw out a couple of ideas, such as mobile registration facilities via minivans, and instituting a phone number that people could call if they wanted to get registered. A new procedure would have to be developed, possibly involving many volunteer registrars, to enable such a phone request service. Scott said he was intrigued by these ideas and wanted to think about them.

Next Steps: We all agreed that it made sense to not proceed with development of voter education materials until the legislative session ended, and we knew what new voting procedures have been enacted into law. We agreed to schedule the next meeting on March 31, 1:30 p.m. again in the BOE offices. Scott said that, by then BOE would have a good plan in place for how it would be proceeding.

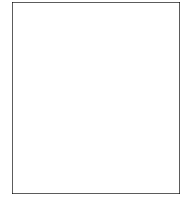
However, in the near term, Scott would like to establish some kind of an informal working group of the stakeholders in the voting process to discuss collaborations and specific approaches to voter registration and voting. He envisions that this group would include the League, organizations such as CAFé, poll workers, the political parties, and other entities that have some involvement in voter registration and voting. He would like the League to provide BOE with recommendations for organizations and individuals that the League thinks should participate in this working group.

The meeting concluded at approximately 3:30 p.m.



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

(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
 Web Site: www.lwvglc.org



FIRST CLASS

March 2015
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Membership Application

**After November 1 - \$30 for Individual;
 \$15 for each additional household member
 Annually: \$60 Individual; \$30 Second
 Household; \$30 Students**

Date: _____
 Name: _____
 2nd Household: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Email: _____
 Telephone: _____

Contributions:
 _____ **League of Women Voters Education
 Fund (Tax Deductible)**
 _____ **Contribute to LWV of Greater Las
 Cruces (Not tax deductible)**

Mail checks to LWV of Greater Las Cruces,
 P.O. Box 8322, Las Cruces, NM 88006

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces is a nonpartisan 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.

Ocotillo Institute *(Continued from page 9)*

Quality of Life (QoL) in the community. Some QoL areas to be addressed are the economy, health, politics, education, and gender equality. The aim is to improve social justice in Doña Ana County.

The Empowerment Congress includes a "Council of Advocates" who do annual measurements and data analysis of QoL areas, an Economic Study Group that focuses on what is going on in the county, and a strong youth-based program called "FUN" that identifies and seeks to address issues affecting youths such as drugs, bullying, homelessness, and nutritious school lunches.

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**IMMIGRATION
 DETENTION HEARINGS**
U.S. Federal Court, 100 N. Church
(see p. 4)
March 11, 2015 - 9:00 a.m.
RSVP: Marjorie Burr
522-2528 or burrrmb@aol.com