

**LWV**

the VOTER

*League of Women Voters of  
Greater Las Cruces*

April 2018

Volume 49

Issue 11

*Please print both sections of this VOTER and  
bring it and your Directory to the meeting.*

## ***Reunion Picnic***

Saturday, May 5, 2018

11 A.M.- 2 P.M.

Pioneer Women's Park

N. Reymond St. and. W. Court Ave.



### **APRIL 2018 VOTER**

Volume 49, Issue 11

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

P.O. Box 15142

Las Cruces NM. 88004

(575) 524-VOTE (8683)

[www.lwvglc.org](http://www.lwvglc.org)

**President** – Kim Sorenson

**Vice-President, Events & Speakers** –  
Christine Sorg

**Secretary** – Connie Lee

**Treasurer** – William Little

**Voter Services** – Vicki Simons  
and Dale Yeo

**Membership Director** – Sue Lashley

**Nominating Committee** – Jane Asche

**Editor. VOTER** – Bonnie Votaw

### **ORGANIZATION OF VOTER CONTENTS 2018 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

This VOTER contains (1) items to conduct the Annual Business Meeting and (2) items related to imminent activities of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary sign-up forms will be distributed at the meeting. They are also located in the Appendices Section. Other content such as Observers Posts will appear in the **May** VOTER. Items related to the Annual Business Meeting are location **highlighted** on the Business Meeting Agenda, page 3.

All Appendices are located in Section 2 of the VOTER. Page 3 contains additional Table of Contents information.

# ***2018 Annual Business Meeting***

Saturday April 14, 2018, 9:00—Breakfast Meeting  
Good Samaritan Social Center, Creative Arts Room  
3011 Buena Vida Circle

## ***AGENDA***

Welcome.....	Kim Sorensen
Meeting Administration.....	Kim Sorensen
• Appoint Minute Takers and Readers (2 each)	
• Appoint Parliamentarian	
• Adopt Business Rules	
Changes to the Agenda .....	Membership
Approval of the 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes.....	Membership
Treasurer’s Report.....	William Little
Report from the President.....	Kim Sorensen
Acknowledgements.....	Kim Sorensen
Annual Meeting Business:	
• Adoption of the Nonpartisan Policy.....	Kim Sorensen
• Approval of Annual Membership Dues.....	William Little
• Adoption of the 2018-2019 Operating Budget.....	Erika Graf-Webster
• Adoption of Current Statement of Positions.....	Kim Sorensen
• Adoption of Recommended Program for Study and Action...Kim Sorensen	
• Report of Nominating Committee and Election.....	Jane Asche
Other Annual Meeting Business	
• LWVNM Council Delegates	
• LWVUS Convention Delegates	
• Directions to the Board	
• Announcements	
Adjournment	

## ***Welcome to the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting***

### **Meeting Administration**

Appointment of Minute Takers and Readers

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Business Meeting Rules

- Only members will have the privilege of the floor.
- No person may speak twice until all members who wish to speak have spoken.

- Motions with wording important to the minutes will be submitted in writing to the secretary.
- Adoption of recommended program items requires approval by a majority of members present. Adoption of non-recommended items requires approval by two-thirds of the members present.
- Those members present at the Annual Meeting shall constitute a quorum.

**Annual Meeting Business:**

1. Adoption of the Non-Partisan Policy. **P. 17 of the Membership Directory**
2. Approval of the 2017 Annual Business Meeting Minutes **Appendix 1**
3. Approval of Annual Membership Dues. **Appendix 5 page 22**
4. Adoption of the 2018-2019 Operating Budget. See **Appendix 2**
5. Adoption of Current Statement of Positions. **P. 27 of the Membership Directory**
6. Adoption of Recommended Program for Study and Action **Appendix 3**
7. Report of Nominating Committee and Elections **Pages 8-11**

**Contents to Follow**

2017-2018 President’s Annual Report	<i>Pages 4-7</i>
Upcoming Events	<i>Page 8</i>
Nominating Committee Report	<i>Page 8</i>
Introduction to Nominees	<i>Pages 8-11</i>
Appendices	<i>Section 2 Pages 1-26</i>

**Directory of Appendices**  
*VOTER Section 2*

Appendix 1	2017 Annual Business Meeting Minutes	Page 1-6
Appendix 2	2018-2019 Operating Budget	Pages 7-8
Appendix 3	Recommended Program for Study and Action	Page 9
Appendix 4	Minutes of <u>2018</u> Annual Planning Meeting	Pages 9-15
	Report of Youth Engagement Committee	Pages 16-17
	Report of Voter Services	Page 18
	Report of Affordable Housing Committee	Page 19
	Report of Observer Corps	Page 20
Appendix 5	Approval of Annual Membership Dues	Page 22
Appendix 6	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Notifications	Pages 23-25
Appendix 7	Bonnie Burn Scholarship information	Page 26

## **2017-2018 PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT**



It has been so rewarding to get to work with such a dedicated and passionate group. You have constantly been a source of inspiration. We have had a busy year. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary kickoff began with two proclamations from both the City Council and the County Commissioners declaring 2018 The Year of the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces!

The Voter Impediments Study is ready to launch its survey of the 18-24 year-old age group and the Youth Engagement Committee is working on a Civic Engagement Project with LCPS faculty. The board voted to make the Youth Engagement Committee a permanent committee and appointed Erika as the director (board position).

Voter Services have been run ragged with sponsoring forums, publishing Voter Guides, having voter registration drives, and maintaining our website.

### **2017-2018 Activities**

Below is a list of many of the activities, committees, and organizations we have been involved in this past year.

#### **Active Committees:**

Youth Engagement, Affordable Housing, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

#### **Speakers at Membership Dinners/lunches:**

Mayor Miyagishima; La Clinica Director, Rosario Olivera; Health Security, Vicki Simon;

Legislative Dinner: Representatives McCamley, Small, Martinez, Little, and Gallegos. Senators Soules, Griggs, and Cervantes; Planned Parenthood, Julianna Koob; Nuclear Waste Study, Karen Douglas

#### **Forums**

Co-sponsor with KRWGTV Forums for 2 City Council positions and a Judge position; Co-sponsor with LCPS Bond Issue; City of Mesilla Mayoral and Trustee; Co-sponsor with Temple Beth-El on Electoral Issues

#### **Voter Registration Drives**

Dona Ana Community College, Las Cruces Public High School, Naturalization Services, National Woman's Day, Woman's March, Brannigan Library

#### **Publications**

Voters Guides, Who's Who, Voter Wallet Cards, Membership Directory, Member Handbook

**Observer Corp**

County Commissioners, City Council, School Board, Public Housing Authority, Public Waste and Recycling

**Social Media**

FB LEAGUE WOMENVOTERSGREATERLASCUCESNM

**Website**

WWW.LWVGLC.ORG

**Membership**

93 members  
Average Attendance—30

**LWVNM Participation**

State Studies and committees; Nuclear Waste, Transfer of Public Lands, Health Care Pricing  
Transparency, Reproductive Rights, Judicial Reform  
State Conference, League Day, State Board Meetings, State Studies, La Palabra

**Community Participation**

City Council, Municipal Judge, State Legislators, proclamations from City Council and County Commissioners  
Common Cause—Citizen Lobby Training  
CaFe translate Publications  
Voter Registration at Immigration and Naturalization Ceremonies  
Election Advisory Council—membership and participated in Community Conversation  
KRWGTV—Civic Engagement Panel  
Boys and Girls Club—Community Resource Event  
K-TAL Radio Electoral Issues Interview  
Interagency Council, NGage  
Business Partners: Sun News, The Bulletin, ABC Printing

**International Participation**

World Conference on Climate Change

**Response: 2017 Directions to the Board** (See annual minutes, Voter Appendix A)

- Continue our emphasis on Voter Services (registration drives, forums, publications)

- Transitioning to online publications. Reduced print quantity of Voters Guides and Who's Who. Placed Voters Guides and Who's Who on our website. Plans for advertising our website
- Resolved Policy for handling requests from other organizations
- Added an Observer Corp Program with coordinator
- Approved establishment of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and appointed a chair
- Corrected the website on student dues.
- Sent the revised Education Position to the LWVNM
- Separated Ed and Operating Funds on Budget
- Established a line item on the budget for state registration fees
- Tried to schedule more lunch meetings in the winter but there is a conflict with the room
- Replaced a Dinner with a Leader to a Discussion Meeting. Plans for more.
- 2018 plan to review 2 position statements (see Program Planning Meeting minutes)
- 2018 Hope to appoint a Public Relations Director

## Summary of Program Planning Meeting

The Program Planning Meeting took place February 12<sup>th</sup>. Below are the results of our worksheet. Please refer to the minutes in the appendix for a more thorough review.

### ***Results of 2018 Program Planning Work Sheet***

Recommended Program: The LWVUS Board recommends that Program 2018-2020 continue The Campaign for Making Democracy Work<sup>®</sup>. Leagues are also asked to share information on how their work will impact the Campaign for Making Democracy Work<sup>®</sup> as well as identify LWVUS positions that they intend to use in education and lobbying.

Do you recommend LWVUS continue to focus on the Making Democracy Work Campaign?

***Answer: Yes***

Check which aspects of the campaign LWVGLC should focus.

- 🍏 Voting Rights
- 🍏 *Improving Elections*
- 🍏 Campaign Finance/Money in Politics
- 🍏 Redistricting

***Members recommend that we continue our focus on improving elections.***

**Review of LWVGLC Positions** Check the statements you feel require updating. Refer to the Membership Directory for full positions.

- 🍏 Affordable Housing (2012)
- 🍏 Branigan Library (2007)
- 🍏 *County Government (1997)*
- 🍏 Education (2016)
- 🍏 Election Procedures (2015)
- 🍏 Health Care in Dona Ana County (2005)

- 🍏 Land Use Planning (2001)
- 🍏 Mental Health Services in Dona Ana County (2010)
- 🍏 Metropolitan Court (2007)
- 🍏 *Municipal Elections (1997)*
- 🍏 Quality of Life (2015)
- 🍏 Solid Waste Recycling (2008)
- 🍏 Water (2001)

***Members recommended that both the County Government and the Municipal Elections Positions need updating.***

### **Current Studies and Recommendations for Future Studies**

- 🍏 18-24 Age Group Voter Participation Study

***There were no recommendations for future studies for 2018.***

### **Committees LWVGLC past and present**

\* Current committees.

- 🍏 Education
- 🍏 *Affordable Housing\**
- 🍏 Voting Impediments
- 🍏 Quality of Life
- 🍏 Water
- 🍏 Election Procedures
- 🍏 Youth Engagement\*
- 🍏 Immigration
- 🍏 *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee\**
- 🍏 Other Recommendations (specify)

***Members recommended we should focus our energies on Voter Services and the 3 committees that are active with a plan to possibly revive the Quality of Life Committee depending on interest after the Quality of Life Forum in the fall.***

### **Community Involvement Activities**

***The following are activities the LWVGLC will continue.***

- 🍏 Observer Corp
- 🍏 Candidate and Issues Forums
- 🍏 Voter Registration Events
- 🍏 Get out the Vote
- 🍏 Collaborating with local schools on civic engagement projects
- 🍏 Collaborating with other organizations such as Common Cause and AAUW.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Kim Sorensen, President LWVGLC

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

March 31	LWVNM Board Meeting, Santa Fe
April 5	LWVGLC Board Meeting, Branigan Library, 10-12 a.m.
April 14	LWVGLC Annual Business Meeting
May 5	LWVGLC 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion, Pioneer Women's Park
May 19	LWVGLC LWVNM Council, TBA
June 7	LWVGLC Board Meeting, Branigan Library 10-12 a.m.
June 11	Dinner with a Leader
June 28-July 3	LWVUS Convention, Chicago

## ***NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT***

The Nominating Committee has identified a slate of individuals to serve in offices to be elected for one- and two-year terms.

- Cindy Murrell, Vice-President 2018-2020
- Ashley Beyer, Secretary 2018-2020
- Maryellen Kebbel and Caprice Benoit, Co-Membership Directors 2018-2020
- Dale Yeo and Vicki Simons, Co-Voter Services Directors 2018-2020
- Jane Asche, Chair of Nominating Committee 2018-2019
- Judith La Pointe, Elected Member Nominating Committee Representative 2018-2019

President Kim Sorenson's two-year term will end 2019 and Treasurer William Little will complete a two-year term ending 2019.

## ***INTRODUCING THE CANDIDATES***

### **CINDY MURRELL, CANDIDATE FOR VICE – PRESIDENT 2018-2020**

Cindy Murrell is a native Las Cruces. She joined the League of Women Voters in 2016 and is currently a member of the Youth Engagement Committee. She retired from New Mexico State University in July 2017 after 29 years of teaching English literature and composition. In the past ten years she has contributed to improving the status of nontenure-track faculty at NMSU by working with others to write amendments to the English Department By-Laws, the Faculty Senate Constitution, and the NMSU Policy Manual. She served for three years on the Faculty Senate and for six years on the College of Arts & Sciences College Faculty Promotion Committee. Cindy's interest in the arts led her to create and administer the public Facebook group Las Cruces/El Paso Arts Events, where members of nonprofit arts groups can publicize their events. She continues to teach and copyedit part-time, in addition to reading, singing with Masterworks, and enjoying her two grandchildren.







**ASHLEY BEYER – CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY 2018-2020**

Ashley Beyer was born, and has lived most of her life, in Las Cruces, NM. She received her B.A. in Government with a supplementary major in Law and Society from New Mexico State University. Ashley is married with two children. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, hunting, fishing, and exploring the outdoors with her family.

She is currently an active member on multiple organizations and groups which advocate for election reforms aimed at increasing fair access to voting, as well as increasing voter turnout. She also gained experience with administering elections as part of her previous employment at the Dona Ana County Clerk’s Office. Improving, as well as promoting, the integrity and importance of democracy in our community is a priority for Ashley.

***CO-MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORS 2018-2020, Caprice Benoit and Maryellen Kebbel***

**CAPRICE BENOIT – CANDIDATE FOR MEMBERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR**

Caprice Benoit moved to Las Cruces in December 2015 with her husband and daughter. Since her marriage in 1995, she has lived in Louisiana, Alabama, North Dakota, South Dakota, and California before moving to New Mexico. She has served the various communities where she has lived as an active volunteer in non-profit organizations and municipal committees. After devoting sixteen years to raising her daughter, she recently returned to work as paralegal.



**MARYELLEN KEBBEL - CANDIDATE FOR MEMBERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR**



Maryellen Kebbel has been a Las Cruces resident since 2009. She taught in the Cleveland Public Schools as a Reading Specialist, Literacy Coach, and Staff Developer for 30 years. After retirement, Maryellen consulted with e-Read Ohio as an online literacy coach and mentor. Maryellen continues to work with children as a Reading Buddy with the Children’s Reading Alliance. She served as President with the Friends of the Branigan Library. In addition, she volunteers with the Blinded Veterans Association in Las Cruces and with the Hines Blind Alumni Association.

***CO-DIRECTORS FOR VOTER SERVICES 2018-2020, Dale Yeo and Vicki Simons***

Dale Yeo and Vicki Simons are currently serving as Co-Directors of Voter Services and have agreed to continue for another two years.

**DALE YEO – CANDIDATE FOR CO-DIRECTOR OF VOTER SERVICES**

Dale retired from a long teaching career in 1994 in the Copper Country area of Upper Michigan where she was Title 1 director and a teacher for 28 years in the Lake Linden-Hubbell Public Schools. She is proudest of developing a groundbreaking preschool program, an elementary computer lab, and later a theme-based summer school. After retirement she became a member of the Copper Country League of Women Voters with an interest in Voter Services activities and became editor of the Voters Guide and developer and Webmaster of that League's site. Moving to Las Cruces in late 2006, she gravitated to the LWVGLC and worked in the same areas. She has extended her interests a bit, as time permits. In Las Cruces, Dale has a small but active pet sitting and home maintenance/repair business. She is very involved in her church, helping with the food and clothing pantry, serving on the Missions Committee and playing in the bell choir. She is a Board member of the Dyslexia Institute of Southern New Mexico. In her spare time, she loves to hike and climb in the desert and beautiful mountains of Southeastern New Mexico, go to the movies, and attend live performances as well as explore other areas of life in her adopted home. She also travels occasionally to visit family and friends. Dale is not married and has one son and one grandson who live in Michigan and nephews and nieces who live in Minneapolis, where she was born and raised.



**VICKI SIMONS – CANDIDATE FOR CO-DIRECTOR OF VOTER SERVICES**

Vicki is a long time member of the LWVGLC and has extensive knowledge of the various League roles. She has served as the Vice President and then President of the League from 2000-2003, Chair of Voter Services from 2008-2010 and Co-chair from 2014-2016, Nominating Committee Chair from 2008- 2010, and Co-chair of the Affordable Housing Committee from 2011 to the present. She is retired from a career in the healthcare field and has a passion to ensure that all persons have affordable healthcare. She has been a leading advocate in the state for the passage of the NM Health Security Act, which if passed into law will set up its own health insurance plan—the Health Security Plan—that will cover almost all New Mexico residents.

## ***NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2018-2019***

### **JANE ASCHE, CANDIDATE FOR CHAIR OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Jane and her husband came to Las Cruces in 1999 to be in place to retire in a community that had all they wanted in the way of a great place to live. Jane has been a national trainer, author, and curriculum designer for community-school- business-education partnerships. Her job



responsibilities have included research, curriculum development, organizational development, strategic planning, partnership training, and technical assistance to government agencies, voluntary associations, and nonprofit organizations. She taught at the elementary and secondary level in public schools across the country. She served as a faculty member and community development specialist in the College of Education and the Extension Division at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. During the final years of her career, she served first, as the Director of Development, and next as Vice President for Field Services of the National

Association of PARTNERS IN EDUCATION. Her passion in life is to ensure that the most at-risk children and youth succeed at high levels in attaining an education.

### **JUDITH LA POINTE, CANDIDATE FOR ELECTED NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE**

I have lived in Las Cruces since 1968 when I first joined the LWV. I worked for the NM Department of Labor from 1982-1999 as a Deputy Labor Commissioner for the southwestern part of NM where I represented employees with claims for wages, unemployment claims, child labor issues, workers compensation, etc. After my retirement, I volunteered at Southern NM Legal Aid, helping their clients with a variety of issues for the next 15 years. Now I have rejoined the League and I hope to help out on the nominating committee in 2018-19.





*League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces*

---