

**LWV**

the VOTER

*League of Women Voters of  
Greater Las Cruces*

**August 2018**

**Volume 50**

**Issue 3**

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**August 2018 VOTER**

Volume 50, Issue 3

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

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***AUGUST 13 DINNER WITH A LEADER,  
Scott Krahlung at Good Samaritan, 5 -7 p.m.***

Mark your calendar for August 13<sup>th</sup>. Scott Krahlung, the County Clerk, will be speaking at Dinner with a Leader at Good Samaritan starting at 5 p.m. He will explain how ranked choice voting works, and the impact of consolidation of elections. Las Cruces City Council recently approved measure for both changes in local election procedures, beginning in late 2019.

Voters for city council on election day 2019 will have the option of not only selecting their top choice for a seat, but their next preference for the seat. Their top candidate might not be in the running to win - but their second choice could factor into an instant run-off - should one be needed. Voters can also choose to select one candidate only, as they've always done, and bypass the additional rankings. Doña Ana County Clerk Scott Krahlung said voting machine software will be programmed to carry out

the instant run-off if one is necessary.

In addition to adopting rank-choice voting for city council, Las Cruces City councilors earlier in the year adopted the first step in an election-consolidation measure that will combine city elections with school and special district elections. The intent is to boost voter turnout by standardizing election dates and reducing the overall number of small elections held yearly. Typically, small elections - school districts, community college districts, flood control districts, special zoning, soil



and water and water sanitation districts - attract few voters. "This is a big step in our efforts toward getting everybody to vote in every election," said Doña Ana County Clerk Scott Krahlung after the city council's vote.

Scott believes that engaging people and working together is at the center of success. His vision is to create a voting culture in Doña Ana where everyone votes in every election. He has been aggressive in working to attract and register voters. In 2013 Krahlung began working at the County Clerk's Office as the Bureau of Elections Supervisor and later was promoted to Chief Deputy County Clerk. He has administered over 22 elections with trustworthy results. In addition, he developed an outreach program that resulted in registering over 1,000 new voters in the county, and increased opportunities to vote with other innovative ideas. He also developed the Election Advisory Council, which brings community partners together with a mission to increase voting in Doña Ana County.

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## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

Greetings LWVGLC,

Last night's (July 18<sup>th</sup>) forum on Mental Health was a packed house with 69 people attending. It is a testimony to how important this issue is. Take a-ways—we need legislation and resources. Not enough beds, not enough psychiatrists, not enough money for treatment and prevention programs, not enough housing.... the list goes on and on and the result is 4000 DAC citizens and their families are suffering because they are not getting the treatment they need. Thanks Sadie Valverde for organizing, and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for sponsoring this event.



***STANDING  
ROOM  
ONLY***

***MENTAL  
HEALTH  
FORUM***

Get your calendars out! There is a lot happening in the next few months: August is upon us and we are gearing up for a very busy election season.

We have candidate forums tentatively planned with KRWG. Dale Yeo and Vicki Simons are working with Fred Martinez on the details. We will get the information out to you as soon as we know. In addition, we are hoping to schedule candidate forums for the local elections that would include forums for State Representatives, Public Land Commissioners, and DAC Sheriff. Watch for details. We are going to need volunteers!!!

Besides the candidates' forums, there will be a forum on Education on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The 50th Anniversary Committee is sponsoring this forum at 7 p.m. at Lynn Middle School.

Movie Night: August 23<sup>rd</sup> 7pm. "The Silence of Cricket Coogler" followed by discussion. We are hoping Richard Startzman, one of the producers of the movie, will give a presentation prior to the movie.

Mark your calendars for August 13<sup>th</sup> and September 7<sup>th</sup>. Scott Krahlung, the County Clerk, will be speaking at the Dinner with a Speaker on the 13<sup>th</sup>. He will explain how ranked choice voting works and the impact of consolidation of elections. Both were approved by the Las Cruces City Council. The Program Fiesta will be held September 7<sup>th</sup>. We decided to really do it up and have a party to celebrate all that we do. It's going to be on a Friday because we felt that celebrations are always better on Fridays! Please Come!!!!

Finally, Get ready for an exciting event, "Celebrating Democracy in Dona Ana County", October 9<sup>th</sup>, co-sponsored with the Election Advisory Council. The event will be at the County Government Building and was planned to coincide with the first day to vote and the last day to register to vote for the general election. The goal is to get citizens, especially youth, excited about voting with all who are eligible voting that day! Co-chairs are Erika Graf-Webster and Barb Records.

As you can see there is a lot going on. Please join us on as many activities as you can.



Regards,

Kim Sorenson, President

**WANTED: PUBLIC RELATIONS PERSON FOR LWVGLC**

We are looking for someone who would be willing to send out press releases and letters to the editor to the various media sources. You don't have to write anything – just do the legwork.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

August 7	Board Meeting, 10-12 a.m. Branigan Library Board Room
August 13	Dinner with a Leader, 5-7 p.m. Good Samaritan Activity Room
August 21	Youth Engagement Committee, 3:30 Branigan Library Board Room
August 23	Book Club, 2 p.m. Marjorie Burr's house <b>The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote</b> by Elaine Weiss
August 23	Movie Night: "The Silence of Cricket Coogler," 7 p.m. Good Samaritan Activity Room
September 7	Program Fiesta, 5-7 p.m. Good Samaritan Activity Room
September 8	LWVNM Board Meeting, Santa Fe
September 13	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Good Samaritan Bldg. E, 2nd Floor West Lounge
September 20	Forum on Education, 7-9 p.m. Lynn Middle School Cafeteria

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## **COMING FROM AN ELECTION NEAR YOU: THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE GOVERNMENT IN ACTION**

### **"Sunshine" and LWVGLC**

By Johnnie R. Aldrich

When members of the League of Women Voters talk about "sunshine," they are not usually discussing our local weather. "Sunshine" is as much a League priority as voter registration and voter education; it has been so since our founding. Call the principle "transparency" or "freedom of information" or what you will, the basic notion is that people have a right to attend public meetings, to have access to public records, and to know about and participate in what our government is doing, how our elected officials are spending our tax dollars and guiding our governance. Thus, the Observer Corps of the League, the "watchdogs" of local, state, and federal government.



Our formal Observer Corps was born in 2003 at the beginning of her GLC presidency, when Marnie Leverett encouraged us to form an Observer Corps. She was convinced, and rightly so, according to the LWVUS guidelines, that both our community and our League would benefit from such an organized effort to perform as "watchdogs" of our government's local entities in

action. Those of us who signed up to participate very soon realized that we, as individuals, also were beneficiaries of our efforts.

It isn't all about duty. For some reason, watching our democracy in action is a source of pleasure for me. I am especially pleased when I see city and county governments working together, coordinating public services to avoid wasting public funds and duplicating services. Observers get to select the government offices or departments on which they will focus their efforts, so I chose the South Central Solid Waste Authority, a Board of Directors comprised of 3 Las Cruces City Councilors and 3 Doña Ana County Commissioners, in addition to financial officers from each. One of my goals for my retirement was to participate as actively as possible in local politics and the Observer Corps puts me where the action is. The knowledge I have gained from these monthly meetings is another source of pleasure for me.

League Observers are members who care enough about government to attend meetings regularly and then report in writing, if only briefly, to the rest of the members so that we all may be educated. Covering every department in a city/county of our size would be impossible. The City Council and County Commissioners clearly should be monitored, but observers are allowed to choose their observation activities according to their interests: Branigan Library Board? Board of Education? Planning & Zoning Commission? Utilities Board?

Ideally, observers work in pairs, alternating as needed, so that when a Board meets, its members know that the League is present. And, we are usually welcomed warmly, by the way. Very often, Board members appreciate the possibility that their work will be made known to the public and recognize that because we have studied issues in developing our positions, we might even make helpful suggestions or comments.

*YES*, this piece in an invitation to join those of us who currently work as Observers. The few Boards that we are able to cover know of the existence of the League; we are highly visible. As individuals, we benefit from seeing our elected (and volunteer) officials in action; we may even be included in the action, though we rarely speak in any kind of official capacity. Furthermore, it's been noted that governing bodies are more likely to follow protocols and "sunshine" principles when observers are present. The whole community, therefore, can benefit just because we are there.

No special skills or training are required of League Observers. Those who do sign up are asked to follow the League non-partisan position; i.e., we do not support a particular candidate or party nor do we try to advance a personal agenda. We are good listeners who are able to

briefly summarize proceedings of any given meeting as fairly as possible. We are willing to serve as promoters of the League in our pre- and post-meeting conversations with other members of the public who may be attending.

If you are willing to participate in our League's Observer Corps, please use your Member Directory and call or email either Susan Schmugge or Vicki Simons, who are co-chairing the Corps Directorship. We need all the help we can get!

**Editor's Note: The August issue of the VOTER includes Observer Posts for summer months. See them on pages 12 – 17.**



## **LWVGLC CONTINUES YEARLONG COMMEMORATION OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

By Marjorie Burr

On Thursday August 23, the 50th Anniversary Committee will sponsor a MOVIE NIGHT at Good Samaritan Auditorium. The event will start at 6:30 p.m. with the showing of the feature film ***The Silence of Cricket Coogler***.

We are fortunate to have Paula Moore, who has written the book about the incident and its aftermath, ***Cricket in the Web***. Paula says that she was inspired to write the book after she saw the movie, ***The Silence of Cricket Coogler***. The audience will have the opportunity to hear Paula, and perhaps movie producer Richard Startzman, discuss their productions and to ask questions. Mr. Startzman has not yet been confirmed.

The 50th Anniversary Committee has chosen this event as part of our commemoration for a couple of reasons. The happenings around the incident of Cricket Coogler's murder give some insight into the kind of politics that were practiced in this community in the 1940s. One of the few things I knew about this town before we moved here in the 1960s was the outline of this event, because it had penetrated the national news of the time. So it will provide the viewer with an awareness of the community that is part of the milieu into which the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces was planted.

The evening will be free to members of the League of Women Voters and residents of Good Samaritan Village and their guests. It will not be advertised to the community at large because of space limitations. Experience is that past showings of the movie have generated a lot of interest. You can purchase *Cricket in the Web* at COAS Bookstore on the Downtown Mall.

## **LWVGLC 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY – THE HOMESTRETCH**

### ***For your calendar***

- Thursday, August 9, 2018, 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
***History Notes***  
Branigan Cultural Center, Schwartz Room  
*A group of local history buffs meets monthly to hear a presentation. In August we will have an informal discussion with them about LWVGLC's 50-year history. **All our members** are invited to participate, i.e., contribute as well as listen.*
- Thursday, August 23, 2018, 6:30 pm ***Movie Night***  
Good Samaritan Auditorium  
*A showing of the feature-length film, **The Silence of Cricket Coogler**. A story about a murder in Las Cruces in 1949 and the surrounding political intrigue.*
  - *Remarks by film's producer, Richard Startzman [tentative].*
  - *Remarks by Paula Moore, author of **Cricket in the Web** [confirmed].*

*(This event is open and free to LWV members and their guests, and to Good Sam residents. Space restrictions do not allow us to open it to the public.) You can purchase the book at COAS Bookstore on the Downtown Mall.*
- September 13 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Good Samaritan Bldg. E, 2nd Floor West Lounge
- Thursday, September 20, 2018, 7:00 pm.  
Lynn Middle School Cafeteria  
**Public Forum on Community Schools and Early Childhood Development**  
*One of a series of forums on topics that LWVGLC has studied, on which we have come to consensus.*

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## **OUR WEBSITE - THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING?**

By Dale Yeo, Webmaster

We have been hearing so much recently about Russian attempts to hack into our election systems that I decided to check our website statistics. After all, our name might invite unwanted intrusions. What I found surprised me and everyone else. Here are some statistics, hopefully enough to be interesting and not boring.

Some Definitions.

A **hit** is one visit to any web page in a computer site. If you went to our main page two different times, perhaps to look at the calendar, it would be two hits. If you looked at the calendar two different times but went in also to look at Who's Who twice, it would be four hits.

**Unique visitors** mean the number of different computers that have accessed a site. If you made four hits from your computer and I made four hits from mine, we would be two unique visitors.

**Robots** are automated computers that search through websites looking for information that they can download for human beings to use.

Some LWVGLC statistics for the year to date (January through June 2018)

### **Hits: Country of origin**

United States= 18,790

Russian Federation= 5,178

Other Communist countries= 3,183

UNKNOWN= 7,793

The LWVGLC website has been accessed from 124 different countries so far this year

### **Unique Visitors**

All unique visitors= 16,843

### **Not Viewed Traffic**

This term means any access to our website by robots, worms, and specially coded computers = 97,694

The Russians are indeed coming and checking around, even in our website.

Dale E. Yeo  
LWVGLC  
Webmaster





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## **REPORT: LWVUS Convention 2018**

By Dale Yeo

### Introduction

Gwen Hanson and I attended the National (LWUS) Convention, which met from June 28th through July 1 in Chicago. We are grateful for the support of the LWVGLC that enabled us to have this experience and be your representatives. We will share the best we can what we learned from our meetings and hopefully we can also share the inspiration that we experienced.

### Plenary

Plenaries are meetings attended by all delegates to the Convention. LWVUS plenaries were held in our convention hotel, the downtown Chicago Hilton, in a lovely and large ballroom. Including volunteers, delegates, and visitors, there were over 1,100 in attendance. The technical support was good and we were able to hear the speakers and see them on two large screens on either side of the speakers' platform. Here business, both mundane, inspirational and everything in between, was conducted. These sessions were usually three to four hours long and there were four of them. It was our LWVGLC Annual Meeting on steroids. Below are some items of interest to our League.

\*Monetarily, LWVUS is in good shape. After the 2016 election, giving rose quite precipitously, both individual, corporate and planned giving. There is now approximately a \$5.1 million dollar surplus to be used for programming and for updating League technology and consolidating operations.

\*The basic goals of non-partisanship and "Making Democracy Work" remain the same. Areas of emphasis will be diversity/equity/inclusion, improving elections (abolishing the electoral college/National Popular Vote), money in politics, and redistricting.

\*More active promotion of the Equal Rights Amendment was almost unanimously approved.

"... the League of Women Voters of the United States (will take) the required steps to see the Amendment through whatever judicial or other challenges may occur until we see the ERA added to the U.S. Constitution in clear, bold, black and white."

### Caucuses

The caucuses were smaller group presentations by LWVUS, State and/or local Leagues sharing their projects with us. I attended caucuses on Open Primaries (LWV FL), Creating an Inclusive League Culture, Fundraising ("Party with a Purpose"), and Youth Voter Registration. Gwen attended caucuses on Telling the League Story to Raise Money for Your League, Redistricting, A Screening of "Age of Consequences" (A documentary about the global consequences of climate change) and The Time for ERA is NOW.

One caucus we could not attend but we gathered information about it from its creators. We hope it can be pursued further at some time in the future. It's called "The Voter Girl Project" which is a collaborative project between Girl Scouts and the League. It involves Leaguers using their knowledge of voting and advocacy to provide workshops for scouts to earn their citizenship badges. Materials and tips are available from the LWV of Kent (Ohio). I have already mentioned this to a Girl Scout Leader I know and she has expressed enthusiasm and an interest in helping.

## Training Sessions

LWVUS provided two training sessions by professionals. These sessions were two and a half hours long but very engaging. One was called, "Developing and Mobilizing Skills to Win in 2018" conducted by Wellstone Action. We learned how these skills can increase our impact. LWVUS has partnered with Wellstone Action to provide an online learning series.

The other training session was "Using Diversity, Equity and an Inclusive Lens to Strengthen Social Impact and Collaboration" conducted by Diversity Dimensions. We were presented skills to not only be applied to internal organization building but to external election work. There was some very interesting and valuable information presented and exercises to do. (See the LWVUS Diversity Training sheets in the linked Handouts folder at the end).

## Wares

This section was an important part of the National Convention. Ostensibly it was a marketing area for State and local Leagues to sell things. In actuality we found it a place to gather ideas as well as things to help our local League transmit its message to the public and to bolster and inspire our membership. I bought books, a shirt, a scarf, pins... but also found out information about a program of interest.

## Inspiration

An excellent array of speakers was on hand at the Plenary Sessions. Many of these speakers were part of LWVUS. The National League was setting a good example of diversity with its featured speakers on various topics of vital interest to our programming. The ultimate speaker was saved for the last full day at the end of the banquet. She is a journalist and author of the book, "The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote" by Ellen Weiss. She was as good a speaker as she is a writer. Her sense of detail is superb and you live through the times of ratification, experiencing all the complexity of them, the many characters who were involved and the politics of the time (some of it eerily like our own). One jaded reviewer said he got Goosebumps even though he knew how it ended. I have the book with the author's signed dedication to our League. It should be a must-read for Leaguers. Another polar opposite but engaging book is one for young children. It is written and illustrated in Dr. Seuss's style and is called "One Vote, Two Votes, I Vote, You Vote" with the Cat in the Hat. I even learned something from it.

I have included many pictures to provide more detail if you wish to access them. They are organized in folders. The primary folder is called "LWVUS Convention Pictures 2018." Within the

folders are both traditional pictures and pictures of slides which were posted at the plenary and at caucuses to summarize information. I have tried to name them so you will know what the subject matter is and you can select what is of interest to you. Enlarge them for easier reading.

You will need to copy and paste these links into your browser address bar.

The Pictures link is:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cw6yw7hk0lsvr7d/AAAJ7sQcq5dIP\\_eyQ1Z3oE7Na?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cw6yw7hk0lsvr7d/AAAJ7sQcq5dIP_eyQ1Z3oE7Na?dl=0)

A second folder is also available. It contains resource materials and handouts.

The Handouts link is:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ky3afwa6614zg5u/AAAUW04rj62DITkRLIxm2v4La?dl=0>

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## **OBSERVER CORPS**

*(Editor's note: We have a rich trove of Observer Reports this issue. Mary Ellen Knapp has been diligent to attend and report on City meetings. Susan Schmugge's reports on the Utility Board are the latest word in rates for recycling and water. Take time to thank Mary Ellen and Susan for being our eyes and ears.)*

### **OBSERVER REPORT**

by Mary Ellen Knapp

#### **Las Cruces, NM City Council, May 21, 2018**

Regular Meeting

Mayor and All Councilors present

Agenda items of particular interest:

**APPROVED** – Ordinance amending Municipal Code, Chapter 16, Licenses, Taxation and Miscellaneous Business Regulations to add new Article X. Bicycle Sharing Operations and amend Section 16-170. - Fees., related to annual fees associated with Licenses Bicycle Sharing Operations. Requests have been received from two companies to use Las Cruces public right-of-way for bike-share operations. Annual costs for permits will be \$250 plus \$10/bike deployed and, if used, \$500/docking station. Electrical bicycles and scooters are not included under this ordinance. (7 ayes)

**APPROVED** – Ordinance amending Municipal Code to include Chapter 8, Article 1, Section 14, authorizing the City of Las Cruces to Opt In the election of its municipal officers in the regular local election and determining terms of office for current office holders to be lengthened to correspond with the new election date. The first election to be affected is in November 2019. This election reform is intended to: (1) simplify elections for voters by creating a consistent election day in November in odd numbered years; (2) consolidate school elections and special districts; (3) give municipalities options; and (4) provide for special elections to be conducted by mail ballots.

The terms of the present municipal elected officials will be extended to December 31, 2019. Newly elected municipal officers will take office on January 1, 2020. The regular election for municipal officers will take place on the first Tuesday in November of odd numbered years.

Under the new election act, the County conducts elections, the City controls districts, and the County controls polling places.

Dolores Connor, Chairwoman of the Dona Ana County Election Advisory Council, spoke in favor of the ordinance. (7 ayes)

At a later date Councilors will choose one of two options (ranked choice or top two run-off) for conducting run-off elections.

## **OBSERVER REPORT**

by Mary Ellen Knapp

### **Las Cruces, NM City Council, June 4, 2018**

Regular Meeting

Mayor and 5 Councilors present - Councilor Smith participated by telephone

The Producer and Community Relations Representative of C-SPAN appeared at the meeting to announce the selection of Las Cruces to be highlighted in the C-SPAN Cities Tour series. Their crew has been interviewing local historians, authors, professors and visiting historical and other sites. The 10-segment documentary showing what makes our city unique may be viewed August 18 and 19 on the following TV channels: Book TV - C-SPAN2, Comcast Channel 18; American History TV - C-SPAN3, Comcast Channel 105; and online at <https://www.c-span.org/series/?citiesTour>.

Agenda items of particular interest:

**APPROVED** - Ordinance proposing amendments to the Petition and Recall provisions of the City Charter. The City Attorney has proposed six changes that will: (1) make the process cost-efficient and (2) replace the recall process with a more efficient and deliberative process for removing local officials. In both cases the risk of litigation will be mitigated. Residents will vote by mail on the separate City Charter amendments in a Special Election in August. (7 ayes)

**APPROVED** - Resolution calling for a Special Election on Tuesday, August 21, 2018, for General Obligation Bond Questions and Changes to the Las Cruces City Charter. (7 ayes)

Residents will vote August 21 by mail on the following four separate General Obligation Bond questions totaling \$35,600,000 and payable from property taxes: \$16,900,000 for improvements to parks, sports fields and other related facilities; \$9,800,000 for a new animal shelter facility and related improvements; \$6,200,000 for replacement of Fire Station #3 facilities, including land acquisition; and \$2,700,000 to construct and improve walking, jogging, and biking trails, including land acquisition.

Residents will also vote by mail in the August 21 Special Election to amend the Petition and Recall sections of the City Charter to include provisions in the Council-APPROVED ordinance. (See 1<sup>st</sup> APPROVED item listed above.)

**APPROVED** - Ordinance amending the Municipal Code to choose a Ranked Choice Runoff Election process. Beginning with the November 2019 regular election, voters will be able to vote for candidates by order of preference. Should a runoff be required, the electronic voting

machines will be able to immediately determine the winner, saving the cost of another election. (7 ayes)

**APPROVED** – Resolution approving a Home Investment Partnerships Program Recoverable Grant Agreement between the City of Las Cruces and Tierra Del Sol Housing Corporation for use of \$153,390 HUD funds for eligible new construction of seven owner-operated single-family affordable housing units. The homes will be sold to qualified low-income households and the Plan will provide a direct reduction in the sales price of units, offering an affordable mortgage to the households. (7 ayes)

**OBSERVER REPORT**

by Mary Ellen Knapp

**Las Cruces, NM City Council, June 18, 2018**

Regular Meeting

Mayor and 6 Councilors present

Agenda Items of particular interest:

**APPROVED** – Resolution to better ensure the safety of students in Las Cruces schools. This resolution expresses the City's support for school safety by continuing to work with Las Cruces Public Schools regarding School Resource Officers. It also shows the Council's continued support for enacting legislation requiring comprehensive background checks. It requests the Legislature and Governor to better secure the safety and education of young people by addressing the needs for better mental health services in New Mexico, the need for places of learning to be both conducive to learning and secure, and the need for weapons capable of doing great harm to be kept out of the hands of those wishing to do harm in New Mexico.

A resolution under the same title was previously presented to the Council for approval and was Tabled to gather additional input from residents. Several additional meetings, including a joint meeting with the School Board, were held and resulted in this new resolution. Sixteen people addressed the Council on June 18 - the majority of whom supported the resolution while offering their comments and suggestions. (7 ayes)

**OBSERVER REPORT**

by Mary Ellen Knapp

**Las Cruces, NM City Council, July 2, 2018**

Regular Meeting

Mayor and All Councilors Present

Agenda items of particular interest:

**APPROVED** – Resolution Adopting the Apodaca Blueprint. The 730-acre plan covers Apodaca Park, the former Las Cruces Country Club property, adjacent neighborhoods and Villa Mora Dam. It was tabled on May 7, 2018 to schedule a public meeting to receive more input from residents and give them more time to review the final plan. Some of the comments made were that the plan reflects goals; it preserves one of the last areas of natural space and could include a hiking trail; and one resident would like to see community rather than commercial space designated. (7 ayes)

**APPROVED** – Resolution opposing the Zero-Tolerance Policy separating children and the inhumane conditions the children are placed in. The Resolution asks the Federal Government to: (1) provide legal protection for asylum seekers; (2) institute the Family Case Management Program to include mental health and medical services; (3) be advised that the Las Cruces City Council is in full support of the Keep Families Together Act cosponsored by Senators Udall and Heinrich and introduced to the Federal Legislature in June of 2018; (4) allow parents to participate in their children's court proceedings; (5) be advised that the Las Cruces City Council supports alternatives to indefinite family detentions and inhumane and substandard living conditions. Three individuals from the audience spoke in favor of the resolution, one wishing it went farther. (7 ayes)

**APPROVED** – A Resolution Authorizing and Approving Submission of an Application for \$9,600,000 Financial Assistance and Project Approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority for Construction of a Competitive Pool Enclosure. Proposed starting date is August 2018 and proposed project completion is July 2019. Funding for the Olympic-sized pool, to be built next to the Aquatic Center, has previously been secured.

Four individuals from the swimming community spoke in favor of the resolution. Some of their comments were that building a pool without a cover is like only building half a pool because it can only be used half a year; no sunburn, no windburn; Fenger pool has outlived its usefulness and costly to maintain; there can be as many as 500 kids participating in swim meets; swim clubs will pay to use lanes of the pool. (7 ayes)

## **OBSERVER REPORT**

by Mary Ellen Knapp

### **Las Cruces, NM City Council, July 16, 2018**

Regular Meeting

Mayor and 5 Councilors Present Councilor Smith participated by telephone

#### Citizen Participation:

Steve Hanson, Vice President of the Soccer League, and several of the 3,000 youth participants and coaches appeared before the Council to turn in petitions with over 1,000 signatures asking for upgrading of the Las Cruces soccer facilities.

Lucas Herndon and Sam Bradley, third-party voter registration agents, addressed the Council regarding The Farmers and Crafts Market's not allowing them to walk through the Market carrying clipboards to register voters on Saturday, July 14. Both agents expressed their concerns about the violation of First Amendment rights for free speech in a public place. A temporary solution for the agents was reached by the City Manager and County Clerk for a table to register voters to be placed in front of a property leased by a candidate; however, circulating through the market is not permitted. A permanent decision cannot be made until the issue is researched and an opinion reached by the City Attorney.

#### Agenda Items of Particular Interest:

The Arts and Cultural District Coordinating Council (ACDCC) - a partnership between the City of Las Cruces, Dona Ana Arts Council, and the Downtown Las Cruces Partnership - was established in 2015 with the goal of developing an Arts and Cultural Plan that would set a vision and goals for an arts and cultural district in Las Cruces. The district is to be based on the Arts and Cultural District program developed by the New Mexico Economic Development Dept. Las Cruces will have the first Arts and Culture District in the state under this program. The district will be in a geographically contiguous area including portions of the downtown and Mesquite Street Historic District. The City will not operate the district but will remain a partner in the ACDCC.

**APPROVED** - Ordinance to adopt Arts and Cultural District - which creates guidelines for operation and establishment of an arts and culture district and creates the boundary of the Las Cruces Arts and Cultural District. An amendment was also approved to include permission to add additional districts in the future. (7 ayes)

**APPROVED** - Resolution to adopt The Las Cruces Arts and Cultural District Plan that outlines the vision and goals for operation of the arts and culture district. (7 ayes)

**APPROVED** – Resolution approving a Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Las Cruces and the Las Cruces Public School District (LCPS) to establish the Las Cruces Partnership for Community Schools and create the Las Cruces Partnership for Community Schools Board. The City and LCPS have previously approved resolutions related to Community Schools in Las Cruces, and this Agreement formalizes the relationship and terms of each previous resolution. (7 ayes)

#### **OBSERVER REPORT**

By Susan Schmugge, Observer

#### **UTILITY CUSTOMER ADVISORY GROUP**

Regular Meeting July 11, 2018

3 of 5 members present (quorum)

This meeting was devoted to a presentation from Stantec Consultants explaining the background, statistics, present and future needs of the Las Cruces Utilities as they relate to



**wastewater** rates. UCAG is charged with looking at the rate setting process on behalf of wastewater customers. The Group will consider the amount of money collected, the cost of service, and a new rate design to cover costs of service to customers. \$4.2million more is needed to cover operating costs, debt services, and capital needs during the current year. Transfer from other funds that LCU manages will cover any shortages until the new rate is determined and approved. The last time rates were raised for wastewater was 2009. The UCAG just finished its deliberations regarding water rates. Its recommendations were made to the LCU Board in June and will be sent to the City Council for approval shortly.

#### **OBSERVER REPORT**

By Susan Schmugge, Observer

#### **LAS CRUCES BOARD OF UTILITIES**

July 12, 2018 All 7 Members Present

Although this meeting had many items on the agenda the most important item to members of the League was the recommendation by the Board to the City Council to **raise water rates in 3 annual phases of for a 24% increase over 3 years. Vote 5-2.** In August this Board will discuss and vote on a policy recommendation to the City regarding other factors that affect utility rates be included so as to enable more frequent periodic adjustments. The result will allow for future annual incremental changes.

The last item was a brief tutorial session regarding the Open Meeting Act as it relates to Board member behavior.

Susan Schmugge, Observer

#### **OBSERVER REPORT**

By Susan Schmugge, Observer

#### **SOUTH CENTRAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY**

Regular Meeting June 28, 2018 All members present

Unanimous approval of end FY18 budget adjustments, purchase of used equipment from City of Las Cruces, and accepting offer of Friedman Recycling of El Paso to post \$500,000 performance bond guarantee for the ongoing operations in lieu of a contract amendment approved by SCSWA on 4/30/18. ***The result of this vote will be a raise in recycling costs/month for Las Cruces City residents to \$6.50, effective 9/1/18.***

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## ***TREASURER'S REPORT***

1 June 2018

League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

For 7 June 2018 Board Meeting

Activity since last Board Meeting

Expenses:

Consumer Cellular: \$19.31

[League cell phone]

Reprint "Who's Who" \$211.21

[will request reimbursement from Ed Fund account]

TOTAL: \$230.52

Income: \$1,154.29 [Ed Fund Reimbursement]

[Recent dues and contributions not tallied]

31 May 2018 Checkbook Balance: \$9,103.43

Education Fund balance should be \$3,831.79, with a to-be-filed request for reimbursement of \$211.21.

### DISCUSSION

There have been substantial deposits for dues paid and small donations to the operating fund. All these will be tallied and reported later in the month. Currently, all monies in the PayPal account have been transferred to checking and are reflected in the bank balance shown above.

William Little, Treasurer

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## Candidate Books for LWVGLC Book Club – August 2018

Status	Book
<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Selected for August 23 At Marjorie's</p>	<p><b>The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote</b> by Elaine Weiss The nail-biting climax of one of the greatest political battles in American history: the ratification of the 19th amendment that granted women the right to vote. Nashville, August 1920. Thirty-five states have ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, twelve have rejected or refused to vote, and one last state is needed. It all comes down to Tennessee. The opposing forces include politicians, liquor companies, railroad magnates, and racists who don't want black women voting. Then there are the "Antis"--women who oppose their own enfranchisement.</p>
<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Selected for September 27</p>	<p><b>Facts and Fears: Hard Truths from a Life in Intelligence</b> by James Clapper The former Director of National Intelligence's account of the intelligence community's successes--and failures--in facing some of the greatest threats to America. Clapper traces the growing threat of cyber-attacks, his relationships with presidents and Congress, and the truth about Russia's role in the presidential election. It was living through Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and seeing how the foundations of American democracy were--and continue to be--undermined by a foreign power that led him to break with his instincts honed through more than five decades in the intelligence profession to share his inside experience.</p>
<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Selected for October 25</p>	<p><b>The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels</b> by Jon Meacham Our current climate of partisan fury is not new, and in <i>The Soul of America</i> Meacham shows how what Abraham Lincoln called the "better angels of our nature" have repeatedly won the day. Painting surprising portraits of Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, and Lyndon B. Johnson, and illuminating the courage of Martin Luther King, Jr., early suffragettes Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt, civil rights pioneers Rosa Parks and John Lewis, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and Army-McCarthy hearings lawyer Joseph N. Welch, Meacham brings vividly to life turning points in American history.</p>
<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Taken Off as the August Selection</p>	<p><b>Women &amp; Power: A Manifesto</b> by Mary Beard (Best Seller) At long last, Mary Beard addresses in one brave book the misogynists and trolls who mercilessly attack and demean women the world over, including, very often, Mary herself. In <i>Women &amp; Power</i>, she traces the origins of this misogyny to its ancient roots, examining the pitfalls of gender and how history has mistreated strong women since time immemorial.</p>
<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">New 2-20-18</p>	<p><b>Trumpocracy: The Corruption of the American Republic</b> by David Frum (Best Seller) Bestselling author, former White House speechwriter, and <i>Atlantic</i> columnist and media commentator David Frum explains why President Trump has undermined our most important institutions in ways even the most critical media has missed, in this thoughtful and hard-hitting book that is a warning for democracy and America's future. Quietly, steadily, Trump and his administration are damaging the tenets and accepted practices of American democracy.</p>
<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">New 2-22-18</p>	<p><b>Educated</b> by Tara Westover. This is a story of a woman who struggles up from a childhood in an isolated, fundamentalist Mormon survivalist home in the Idaho woods to getting a PhD from Cambridge in Intellectual History and Political Thought. Instead of traditional lessons, she grew up learning how to stew herbs, scavenging in scrap yard, and helping her family prepare for the apocalypse. She had no birth certificate, no medical records, had never been enrolled in school.</p>

Status	Book
<b>New 3-20-18</b>	<p><b>Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin's War on America and the Election of Donald Trump</b> by Michael Isikoff and David Corn</p> <p>The incredible, harrowing account of how American democracy was hacked by Moscow as part of a covert operation to influence the U.S. election and help Donald Trump gain the presidency.</p> <p>It weaves together tales of international intrigue, cyber espionage, and superpower rivalry. Moscow trained its best hackers and trolls on U.S. political targets and exploited WikiLeaks to disseminate information that could affect the 2016 election - a brazen act of political espionage.</p>
<b>New 4-20-18</b>	<p><b>A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership</b> by James Comey</p> <p>Former FBI director James Comey shares his never-before-told experiences from some of the highest-stakes situations of his career in the past two decades of American government, exploring what good, ethical leadership looks like, and how it drives sound decisions. His journey provides an unprecedented entry into the corridors of power, and a remarkable lesson in what makes an effective leader.</p>
<b>New 4-28-18</b>	<p><b>Chasing Hillary: Ten Years, Two Presidential Campaigns, and One Intact Glass Ceiling</b> by Amy Chosick</p> <p>The dishy, rollicking, and deeply personal story of what <i>really</i> happened in the 2016 election, as seen through the eyes of the <i>New York Times</i> reporter who gave eight years of her life to covering the First Woman President who wasn't. For a decade, award-winning <i>New York Times</i> journalist Amy Chozick chronicled Hillary Clinton's pursuit of the presidency.</p>
<b>New 5-6-18</b>	<p><b>War on Peace: The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence</b> by Ronan Farrow.</p> <p>US foreign policy is undergoing a dire transformation, forever changing America's place in the world. Institutions of diplomacy and development are bleeding out after deep budget cuts; the diplomats who make America's deals and protect its citizens around the world are walking out in droves. Offices across the State Department sit empty. We're becoming a nation that shoots first and asks questions later.</p>
<b>New 5-29-18</b>	<p><b>Tailspin: The People and Forces Behind America's Fifty-Year Fall--and Those Fighting to Reverse It</b> by Steven Brill</p> <p>From the award-winning journalist and best-selling author of <i>America's Bitter Pill</i>: a tour de force examination of 1) how and why major American institutions no longer serve us as they should, causing a deep rift between the vulnerable majority and the protected few, and 2) how some individuals and organizations are laying the foundation for real, lasting change.</p>
<b>New 5-29-18</b>	<p><b>Political Tribes: Group Instinct and the Fate of Nations</b> by Amy Chua</p> <p>The bestselling author of <i>Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother</i>, Yale Law School Professor Amy Chua offers a bold new prescription for reversing our foreign policy failures and overcoming our destructive political tribalism at home. Humans are tribal. We need to belong to groups. In many parts of the world, the group identities that matter most – the ones that people will kill and die for – are ethnic, religious, sectarian, or clan-based. But because America tends to see the world in terms of nation-states – we are often spectacularly blind to the power of tribal politics. This blindness has undermined American foreign policy.</p>
<b>New 6-23-18</b>	<p><b>Everybody Lies: Big Data, New Data, and What the Internet Can Tell Us About Who We Really Are</b> by Seth Stephens-Davidowitz (Paperback)</p> <p>Blending the informed analysis of <i>The Signal and the Noise</i> with the instructive iconoclasm of <i>Think Like a Freak</i>, a fascinating, illuminating, and witty look at what the vast amounts of information now instantly available to us reveals about ourselves and our world—provided we ask the right questions.</p>

Status	Book
New 6-23-18	<p><b>The World as It Is: A Memoir of the Obama White House</b> by <a href="#">Ben Rhodes</a>  <i>"The closest view of Obama we're likely to get until he publishes his own memoir."</i>            For nearly ten years, Ben Rhodes saw almost everything that happened at the center of the Obama administration—first as a speechwriter, then as deputy national security advisor, and finally as a multipurpose aide and close collaborator. Rhodes shows what it was like to be there—from the early days of the Obama campaign to the final hours of the presidency.</p>
New 6-23-18	<p><b>Raven Rock: The Story of the U.S. Government's Secret Plan to Save Itself--While the Rest of Us Die</b> by <a href="#">Garrett M. Graff</a>            The shocking truth about the government's secret plans to survive a catastrophic attack on US soil—even if the rest of us die—is "a frightening eye-opener" (<i>Kirkus Reviews</i>) that spans the dawn of the nuclear age to today, and "contains everything one could possibly want to know".            "In exploring the incredible lengths (and depths) that successive administrations have gone to in planning for the aftermath of a nuclear assault, Graff deftly weaves a tale of secrecy and paranoia" (<i>The New York Times Book Review</i>) with details "that read like they've been ripped from the pages of a pulp spy novel" (<i>Vice</i>).</p>
New 7-14-18	<p><b>Anna, Age Eight: The data-driven prevention of childhood trauma and maltreatment</b> by <a href="#">Katherine Ortega Courtney PhD</a> (Author), <a href="#">Dominic Cappello</a> (Author)            We are in the midst of an epidemic of childhood trauma with far-reaching effects that the public, media and lawmakers would prefer not to see. With research showing child maltreatment is substantiated for one in eight children in the US. The book suggests a series of shockingly modest yet strategic reforms, changes that can ensure that the future systems of protection in every community are better at identifying their own shortcomings and fixing them. The proven strategies proposed have the power to heal families, illustrating how we can all take courageous and compassionate steps toward designing child-friendly, trauma-free communities.</p>