



UPDATE

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

P. O. Box 158, Los Alamos, NM 87544

Website: www.lwvlosalamos.org

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President: Barbara Calef *bfcalf(AT)yahoo(DOT)com*
Newsletter Editor: Kathy Taylor *kathytaylor1000(AT)msn(DOT)com*

Calendar

- April 13 Lunch with a Leader: County Administrator Tony Mortillaro, Central Ave. Grill, 11:45 a.m.
- April 17 Annual Meeting, First United Methodist Church, 9:30-2:00 p.m.
- April 22 Board Meeting, Mesa Public Library, noon
- May 11 Lunch with a Leader: NNM Citizens' Advisory Board, Cas Mason, Central Ave. Grill, 11:45 a.m.

Tony Mortillaro to Speak at Lunch with a Leader April 13

The Lunch with a Leader speaker on April 13th will be Tony Mortillaro. Mortillaro will be talking about the Trinity Site, new municipal building, the transit system, other generic topics...and of course questions. On May 11th our speaker will be Caroline Mason. She will discuss the CAB--Citizen's Advisory Board to the LANL environmental program.

As always, the event is at Central Avenue Grill at 11:45 a.m. and is open to League members and non-League members. We encourage everyone to come because every one of our speakers has enlightened us and been delightful to hear. It is helpful to contact Karyl Ann Armbruster at 661-6605 or *kaskacayman(AT)gmail(DOT)com* prior to the lunch if you are able to come, but it is not mandatory. You can just show up at 11:45 at the lunch. All meals are \$13.50 and include your choice of meal, drink, tip, and tax.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Date: April 17, 2010

Place: First United Methodist Church,
715 Diamond Drive

Schedule and Agenda

9:30 a.m. Gather and sip (coffee, tea, juice);
silent auction begins

10:00 a.m. Business meeting
Welcome
Minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting
Membership Report
Treasurer's Report
Fundraising Report
Other Committee Reports
Bylaws Amendment
Adoption of Local Program
Adoption of the 2010 Budget
Election of Officers and Directors
Other Business

11:45 a.m. Potluck Lunch

12:30 p.m. Speaker: Marcy Leavitt, Director,
Water and Wastewater Management
Division, NM Environment
Department

Please contact Renate Zinn (672-9681 or
jzinn(AT)cybermesa(DOT)com) to let her know
what you will bring for the potluck lunch (salad,
main dish, dessert).

Please bring this newsletter to the annual meeting!
And bring your checkbook. **Dues for FY 2010-
2011, which begins May 1, will be accepted
beginning April 1.** Remember that if you wish to
make a tax-deductible contribution to our Ed Fund
you must write a separate check! (For cost of
membership, see the membership form on the
back of this newsletter.)

Annual Meeting Agenda Items

Proposed Bylaws Amendment

ARTICLE VI. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of LWV/LA shall be from May 1
to April 30 of the following year.

Section 2. DUES

Annual dues shall be determined by a majority
vote of the voting members present and voting at
Annual Meeting or other membership meeting,
provided notification of the proposed dues was
given to the membership in writing at least one
month prior to the meeting.

Dues shall be collected during April for the
upcoming fiscal year and are delinquent on
September 30. No one whose payment is
delinquent will be carried on the membership
rolls.

The initial payment may be made at any time;
~~and may be prorated, by quarter year, based on
the months remaining before May 1.~~ New
members who join after September 30 will not
be required to pay dues for the following fiscal
year.

[The complete bylaws for LWV Los Alamos are
available on the website. Click on "About
LWV."]

Nominating Committee Report

Officers

President: Barbara Calef

1st VP: *not filled*

2nd VP: Becky Shankland

Treasurer: Rosmarie Frederickson

Secretary: *not filled*

Directors

Arrangements: Renate Zinn

Lunch with a Leader: Karyl Ann Armbruster

Membership: *not filled*

Publicity: *not filled*

Transportation: Janie O'Rourke

Director-at-large: Jane Sherwood

Voter Services: Lynn Jones

Off-Board Directors

Newsletter: Kathy Taylor

Observer Corps: Lynn Jones

Budget Committee: Kathy Campbell

Fund Drive: Chris Chandler

Nominations: Carroll Thomas

(Affordable Housing: Suzie Havemann)

Web site: Kathy Campbell

Apprentice Webmaster: Gale Zander Barlow

POSITIONS OF LWV LOS ALAMOS

SUSTAINABILITY (1995; 1997; 2004; 2008)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos endorses the concept of a sustainable society as a preamble for all of its current and new positions. A sustainable society may be defined as one in which social and economic justice prevail and that preserves and respects its interdependence with the natural world. It is one that satisfies its own needs without jeopardizing the prospects of future generations. It is a society that protects nature. Communities everywhere would be healthy, safe, caring, and productive places where individuals could be assured of enough pure water, clean air, fertile soil, and sufficient sources of renewable

energy to provide for their physical needs. Scarce resources would be equitably distributed so that conflicts over them would be minimized. Each individual would live in dignity with a livable wage. And civil discourse would show that individuals respect one another.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (1975; 1991; 2004; 2008)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos believes that public transportation is an essential element of a sustainable society in so far as it conserves natural resources and decreases pollution. Public transportation is also important economically and socially as an alternative to the current norm of one commuter per car. Public transportation can benefit all citizens including workers, students, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Public transportation should be affordable, convenient and reliable. The County should subsidize and extend the existing County system and support the expansion of the regional system.

In order to sustain clean air and healthy ways of living, an emphasis should be placed on developing infrastructure to encourage pedestrians and cyclists. Land use decisions should support this emphasis by promoting higher density mixed-use development.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING (1996; 2003; 2008)

The League of Women Voters Los Alamos supports the development and rehabilitation of affordable housing in the county. LWV Los Alamos believes that affordable housing units should be integrated into neighborhoods throughout Los Alamos County. New developments should have a mix of market-rate and affordable units.

We acknowledge that some type of subsidy by the county is required to achieve affordable prices.

Effective methods to keep these units affordable when they are resold must be in place if we are to retain a stock of affordable housing. For

instance, land provided as a subsidy could be retained in a trust.

FULLER LODGE (1992; 2004)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos believes that Fuller Lodge should be used primarily for civic and cultural activities. Activities not open to the general public should be charged at a rate comparable to that charged by local businesses for equivalent space. Activities open to the general public should be charged at a lower rate. The County should continue to be responsible for the maintenance, restoration, and protection of the Lodge.

MEDICALLY INDIGENT FUND (1988; 2004; 2008)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos supports the County ordinance establishing the Indigent Health Care Fund. Desirable features of such an ordinance include:

1. A limit should be set on the amount of reimbursement.
2. This limit may need to be amended at intervals because of changing medical costs and demands on the fund.
3. Cost beyond hospital and ambulance services should be considered.
4. For-profit health care providers should be considered for reimbursement; but if non-profit facilities are available, they should be considered first.

SUSTAINABLE WATER (2009)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos (LWVLA) believes that the goal of our county should be to use no more water than can be produced from our aquifer without depleting it. In order to achieve this goal, decisions about growth must consider water use. Even with the current population in Los Alamos, conservation is essential.

To reduce per capita consumption, we support:

- economic incentives
- codification of standards for all new construction

- encouraging conservation practices for existing homes.

We support the County's efforts to apply water efficiency standards in new construction, to reduce leaks, and to irrigate the parks with wastewater effluent. The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) should educate consumers about best irrigation practices, including how to use gray water, and should provide economic incentives to conserve. Although it might reduce the cost of production, we do not support prescribed watering days as a water conservation measure. We do recommend implementing an inclined block rate ordinance.

Residential conservation and vigilance on the part of the DPU will not suffice to achieve sustainability. The LWVLA advocates:

- requiring growth or development to be compatible with the availability of water for the indefinite future without requiring the diversion of the San Juan-Chama water
- careful monitoring and continuing study of the aquifer
- increased efforts by the County to participate in and assure that regional and state plans are sustainable
- engaging the public in the water budget process.

The LWVLA believes that diversion of the San Juan-Chama water should be a last resort because of its high cost and also the potential damage to White Rock Canyon. However, we realize that, despite the best efforts of the County and residents, the viability of the aquifer may be at risk. San Juan-Chama water should be reserved for future emergencies that may be caused by drought and/or contamination. The County should explore ways to maintain its quota of San Juan-Chama water for this purpose. LWVLA recommends that any plans for diversion be designed to minimize the impact on White Rock Canyon.

For the sake of the public welfare, the County should be guided in all decisions by the following policies.

- Encourage conservation and efficiency of use.
- Promote local and regional food security.
- Preserve riparian ecosystems and wetlands.
- Preserve public lands, water, and open space.

**Speaker for Annual Meeting:
Marcy Leavitt, Director of the
Water and Waste Management
Division at NMED**

Marcy Leavitt, the speaker for the Annual Meeting, will discuss water quality issues around the state and especially in Los Alamos. A recent assessment of watersheds in the Pajarito Plateau found that the waters exceeded the state standards for PCBs and several other contaminants.

Silent Auction

Please plan to participate in this year’s Silent Auction. It has been lots of fun and has raised a significant amount of money for our local programs.

All kinds of contributions are welcome! Last year we had original art, pottery, books, and many other beautiful and useful objects. The sole criterion is that the item should be in good condition and something you’d be delighted to take home yourself. You may set a reserve (minimum) price if you wish. Unsold items will be returned to the donors. Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions. If you would like to make donations but aren’t able to attend the meeting, please let me know and I’ll arrange a pick-up.

Donated items are displayed during the Annual Meeting. Bidding begins before the business meeting and continues during the lunch break. The winning bids will be announced before Marcy Leavitt’s talk begins. Please be prepared to pay for your treasures with cash or check.

Barbara Calef, 662-3825,
bfcalf(AT)yahoo(DOT)com

Recent Events in Los Alamos

**Report of February 9 Lunch
with a Leader: Felicia Orth**

Felicia Orth began her talk with a diagram of our state government, to show where she fits in. She is the Administrative Law Judge or Hearing Officer for the New Mexico Environment Department, part of the executive branch, not part of the judicial. She presides over hearings that are called for by the Secretary of the Environment when someone appeals a decision made by a division or bureau within the department.

There is an evidentiary hearing as in a trial, but there is no jury. After the evidence has been submitted, the hearing officer makes the decision, which may be reviewed by the Court of Appeals. Orth says that she loves her job because in the process of conducting hearings on wastewater treatment plants, restaurants, swimming pools, and landfills, she has learned so much in so many fields, including geology, hydrology, engineering, and chemistry.

The hearings are held all over the state. If there is not an official meeting place of adequate size, Orth may hold the hearing in a church or even a bingo parlor. She said that 90% of the time the NMED legal and technical staff have done their job. Her biggest case involved a reclamation plan for two copper mines in Silver City owned by Phelps Dodge. The company planned to spend \$100 million on remediation for each mine. The groundwater bureau ordered them to spend \$500 million on each. The company then set up a “citizens’ group” that announced that there was no need for reclamation; the sites could be used for a movie set. However, Orth said that the state protects all groundwater, even the mines, and decided in favor of the groundwater bureau.

Charter Review Committee Makes Progress

Since the last newsletter, the CRC has moved rapidly to fulfill the Council's charge to consider the LAGRI (Los Alamos Governmental Review Initiative) issues. They have held four listening sessions and identified the major issues as "the need for voters to have more control over major county projects" and "poor communication by county government." Next they will identify solutions to these problems by asking for public input (meeting on March 15). Ultimately, the CRC will propose solutions and present them for public review. The solutions may or may not involve Charter amendments.

Meanwhile, the postponed League-moderated forum on the Charter took place in the Council Chambers on March 8. Becky Shankland moderated; Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lynn Jones, and Kyle Wheeler assisted. Several speakers gave background, and an excellent question-and-answer discussion ensued.

Council Chair Mike Wismer explained the meaning of home rule and the Council's charge to the CRC. Dave Thomson followed with a detailed history of our original charter, which developed over a period from 1960 to 1966, when the first proposed charter was defeated by the voters. Subsequently another charter was drafted and approved in December 1968. The League was actively involved in both efforts.

A couple of highlights: While the first charter was being written, the county was governed by a three-person commission, which was by general agreement bi-partisan. A county administrator-county council structure was eventually chosen, with a 7-member council elected every two years. The mayoral form of government was considered briefly, but was rejected because it was felt that people already had full-time jobs. Sheriff, assessor, and county clerk were NOT elected positions in the first (rejected) charter.

Robert Gibson described the 1994-95 Charter review, on which he served, as did Chris Chandler. It was an extensive review, consulting many groups and meeting 14 times. Many changes were proposed, such as extending Council terms to 4 years to accord with state law.

But most changes were straightforward and not controversial; all were approved by votes of 65%-70%. After that, there was little enthusiasm to continue and look at the serious issues about the form of government, partisan council, term limits, utilities-county relationship, and so on.

After numerous meetings, they reported to the Council and were disbanded. Gibson feels that most of these issues still need discussion and resolution, though he feels that the seemingly awkward county-utilities relationship works well.

John Hopkins, CRC chair, updated the gathering on the past, present, and future work of the CRC, especially the LAGRI issues and possible solutions. His summary is on the CRC web site of the County.

The public comment session was remarkable--many perceptive questions and answers. A selection:

*Pete Sheehey asked about the charter requirements for votes on capital projects.

Gibson explained that the only requirement for a vote was if the funding was by General Obligation Bonds (backed by property taxes).

Recent projects have been funded by existing cash reserves or revenue bonds. Chay Rennick, attorney, said that some increments do have to be voted on.

*Steve Lynne asked to hear from Thomson and Gibson about their views of mayor vs. administrator form of government. They provided lengthy responses...pay, availability, strong mayor, weak mayor, etc.

*Morrie Pongratz raised more issues about the requirements for a citizen vote on revenue bonds.

*Kevin Holsapple: What issues are Charter issues and what ones can be settled in other ways? Wismer: It's a fine line, not always clear. Hopkins: Do we want a broad, general charter or a detailed one? Let the CRC know your opinion.

*Becky Shankland asked about the candidate filing day (Gibson said that is a state law) and what would happen if no one filed (Gibson, who had mentioned this issue, said there was no provision for a vacancy on the ballot). Wismer mentioned the issue of third-party candidates.

Rebecca Shankland

David Gutzler Discusses Water, Climate Change in SW

Dr. David Gutzler, Professor of Climatology at UNM, gave a lecture about climate change and western water resources that was designed as a response to skeptics. He clearly presented that which is known about climate change. The data have been collected by four different climate centers around the world. The results from all four are the same: the earth has been warming since the late nineteenth century.

Gutzler pointed out that greenhouse gases are natural in the atmosphere. They keep the seas liquid by absorbing the heat that radiates from the earth. The principal greenhouse gas is water vapor. However, the concentration of carbon dioxide has doubled since 1750, and that of methane has more than doubled. Prior to 1750 the concentration was constant. The only explanation is that the increase is due to human activity, that is, it's anthropogenic.

Scientists have been trying to design a model that represents the climate in the twentieth century; they have found that the models are more accurate if and only if they include the effects of the increase in greenhouse gases as well as the effects

of the sun and volcanic activity.

Moving on to what is not certain, Gutzler said that the models are not good on long-term drought cycles. Scientists are sure that summers in the next half-century will be much warmer than anything in history, but winters will be quite variable. Because it will be hotter and drier in New Mexico, soil moisture will decrease and evaporation will increase. The snowpack will melt faster, meaning that river flows will peak earlier in the spring, disrupting the water storage and supply system on the rivers.

Asked for his recommendation for public policy regarding climate change, Gutzler warned that we must not ignore the projections. Even if we could fix carbon dioxide at the 2000 level, the temperature will continue to rise. We must pursue new energy sources, investigate sequestration, and think about adaptation.

Water Committee

The Water Committee (Barbara Calef, Kathy Campbell, Becky Shankland, and Mike McKay) met each month during this year to continue the state water study, which began in 2007. Between October and January, we presented our work to the seven local league units and sought their consensus on a large number of issues. Following the last consensus meeting, we reviewed the reports from the meetings and drew up a position reflecting the opinions we hold in common. The draft position has now been submitted to the state board for their consideration.

Message from the President

Looking back at League activities during the past year, I see that the Lunch with a Leader program has flourished under the active stewardship of Karyl Ann Armbruster. She has found an excellent location for the meetings and has successfully tracked down every potential speaker named by the board, including Regina Wheeler, Craig Martin, Angela “Spence” Pacheco, and Gene Schmidt. Let us know if there is someone you would like to hear.

Other well-attended events of the year include Dr. Emile Nakhleh’s talk about Middle Eastern diplomacy, the Legislative Preview, and Dr. David Gutzler’s talk about climate change. We held a forum to inform the public about the only election in Los Alamos this year: UNM-Los Alamos sought a mil levy increase, and LAPS asked voters to continue paying a tax for the schools. Voters subsequently denied the mil levy increase, but approved the LAPS request.

There were many interesting proposals made during the program planning meeting in February. Suggested educational objectives focus on instruction on fiscal policy, holding a forum about health care in other countries, and providing information about how property-assessed clean energy programs work in Boulder and Berkeley. Advocacy in the county was recommended based on our transportation, Fuller Lodge, affordable housing, and water sustainability positions. This next year is an election year. Part of the program will include candidate forums and production of the voters’ guide. There will be many tasks, both large and small, and we need more volunteers. If you can help, please let us hear from you.

The achievements of 2009-2010 are due to our hard-working board and off-board officers and directors. Becky Shankland lent a hand whenever and wherever she was needed. Susan Roach faithfully recorded the minutes and sent them to the board within a few days of the meeting.

Rosmarie Frederickson kept track of in-coming checks and quickly paid the bills. Renate Zinn booked rooms for our meetings and prepared refreshments. Karyl Ann Armbruster planned Lunch with a Leader every month. Wendee Brunish kept the membership roster and updated the on-line roster at LWVUS. Lynn Jones sent articles and ads to the Monitor, although they were not always published. Lynn also reported on Council activities. Evelyn Petschek distributed Who’s in Charge to the libraries and senior centers and has just updated the brochure. Kathy Campbell has kept our web site up to date and also led the Budget Committee. Kathy Taylor is our newsletter editor and also serves on the Budget Committee. Chris Chandler is the fundraising director. Carroll Thomas, with help from Mike McKay and Rosmarie Frederickson, has led a valiant effort to nominate officers and directors for 2010-2011.

Barbara Calef

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

Proposed FY11 Budget

	General	Ed Fund
EXPENSE		
A. Administration		
1. President's Funds	\$50.00	
2. Secretary	\$20.00	
3. Treasurer	\$20.00	
4. Board tools	\$60.00	
5. Communications		
a. Newsletter	\$100.00	
b. Webpage	\$360.00	
6. Other Administrative	\$100.00	
Total Administration	\$710.00	
B. Per Member Payment (PMP)		
1. State	\$618.00	
2. National	\$1,524.40	
Total PMP	\$2,142.40	
C. Committees		
1. Fundraising	\$150.00	
2. Membership	\$100.00	
3. Lunch with a Leader	\$150.00	
Total Committees	\$400.00	
D. Position Support		
1. National	\$25.00	
2. State	\$25.00	
3. Local	\$50.00	
Total Position Support	\$100.00	
E. Convention, Council, & other travel		
1. National Convention	\$1,000.00	
2. State Council	\$0.00	
3. State Convention	\$150.00	
4. Other travel	\$40.00	
Total Travel	\$1,190.00	
F. Program		
1. Voters' Services	\$600.00	\$1,200.00
2. Sustainability	\$50.00	\$300.00
3. Local Government	\$50.00	
4. Child Care	\$0.00	
5. Affordable Housing	\$50.00	
6. Election Reform	\$0.00	
	\$750.00	\$1,500.00
G. Other		
1. Ed Fund pass-through	\$0.00	
2. Memorials	\$0.00	
Total Other	\$0.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,292.40	\$1,500.00

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

Proposed FY11 Budget		
	General	Ed Fund
INCOME		
A. Dues		
1. Regular	\$720.00	
2. Sustaining	\$1,200.00	
3. Household	\$390.00	
4. Household Sustaining	\$665.00	
Total Dues	\$2,975.00	
B. Contributions		
1. Members	\$0.00	\$500.00
2. Non-members	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
3. Businesses	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Total Contributions	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
C. Miscellaneous		
1. LWVNM (for Voters Guide)		
2. Forum partners	\$100.00	
3. Memorial contributions		
4. From Ed Fund	\$700.00	
5. Interest	\$17.40	
Total Miscellaneous	\$817.40	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,292.40	\$1,500.00
Income - Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ALAMOS
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail to: LWV Los Alamos
 P.O. Box 158
 Los Alamos, NM 87544

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Check here if you do NOT want to receive electronic notification of upcoming League events

Check here if you are willing to receive our local newsletter Update as an electronic file, saving us postage.

Check payable to LWV - Los Alamos enclosed to include:

Sustaining membership: \$75

Single membership: \$45

Household sustaining membership (two+ people at the same address): \$95

Household membership (two+ people at the same address): \$65

Unrestricted contribution (not tax deductible): \$ _____

Check payable to LWV Education Fund:

Tax-deductible contribution: \$ _____

Interests (check as many as apply)

One-time activities (unit meetings, fund-drive mailings, "Lunch with a Leader", etc.)

Affordable Housing

Arrangements

Budget

Child Care

Election Reform

Fund Drive

Local Government

Not sure (I just support LWV)

Other (please suggest) _____

Membership

Newsletter

Observe County meetings

Public Relations

Sustainability

Voter Services

Website

"Who's in Charge"

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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