



# UPDATE

**League of Women Voters of Los Alamos**

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

**Website: [www.lwvlosalamos.org](http://www.lwvlosalamos.org)**

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Newsletter Editor: Kathy Taylor *news(AT)lwvlosalamos(DOT)org*

## ***Calendar***

- March 5 Sustainability Town Hall, Crossroads Bible Church, 8-noon
- March 8 Lunch with a Leader: Magistrate Judge Pat Casados, Justice Center, 11:45
- March 8 Fundraising Party, 235 Kimberly Lane, White Rock, 7-9 p.m.
- March 24 Board Meeting, PEEC, noon
- April 9 Annual Meeting, Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- April 14 Lunch with a leader: LA Monitor Editor John Severance, Central Ave. Grill, 11:45 a.m.
- May 13-15 LWVNM Convention in Los Alamos

## ***Lunch with a Leader, March 8: Pat Casados***

We have lined up several outstanding speakers for our monthly luncheons. On March 8 (yes, it is a Tuesday) we will be meeting at our Justice Center at 11:45. We will have a personalized tour by League member and Magistrate Judge Pat Casados followed by lunch provided by Ruby K's. This will be an up close and personal tour.

On THURSDAY, April 14, our speaker will be John Severance, the new editor of the *Monitor*. On Thursday, May 12, Randy Autio, interim County Administrator, will be speaking with us. In June, on Thursday the 9th, Tom Nagawiecki, Los Alamos Environmental Services Specialist will be our leader.

You might recall that we had to change our day for LWL from Tuesday to Thursday because of a conflict at Central Avenue Grill. March's LWL is on Tuesday because it was already scheduled and could not be changed. All other Lunch with a Leader programs will be on the second Thursday of the month. Mark that on your calendar!

*Karyl Ann Armbruster*

## ***Message from the President***

During the program planning session last month, League members recommended that we focus on advocacy in support of our position on sustainability for the next year. To that end several of us will be attending the Sustainability Town Hall next Saturday. We were also asked for an update on some issues from last year. One of those was the status of bus flagging, which was discovered to be illegal in Los Alamos after a fatal accident. The County Council directed staff to return with a plan to allow flagging on some streets and a supporting ordinance. Janie O'Rourke reported that County staff has not dropped the ball, but is working out the problems. The second update, having to do with Property Assessed Clean Energy Assessment Districts, is in a separate report below.

At the February 24 meeting the LWVLA board voted to recommend a local study on land use and transportation to be led by Janie O'Rourke. The board also voted to ask the LWVNM board to recommend a state study on land use to the delegates at the state convention in May.

By the way, the convention will be held here in Los Alamos the weekend of May 13-15! It begins with a potluck party Friday night at Kyle Wheeler's home and continues with the business meeting Saturday and Sunday mornings. There will be workshops Saturday afternoon and a banquet Saturday night, where NM State Senator Tim Keller of Albuquerque will talk about planning healthy communities. Everyone is invited to the potluck and banquet, and League members are welcome to sit in on the meetings. This year the silent auction will be held during the convention rather than at the annual meeting. Watch for details in the March issue of *La Palabra*.

*Barbara Calef*

## ***League Day***

February 15 was a beautiful day in Santa Fe, unlike the day two weeks earlier when this event was originally scheduled. There were two exciting committee hearings in the morning. HB 33, Health Insurance Exchange, was on the agenda for the House Health and Government Affairs Committee, while the Voters and Elections Committee was to hear HB 308, a bill requiring voters to show a photo ID at the polls.

Both chambers were packed with observers, including many League members. When it was time for public comment, I spoke for the LWVNM in favor of the Health Insurance Exchange bill and Jody Larson, from the Santa Fe League, spoke in opposition to HB 308. HB 33 passed out of committee without recommendation thanks to Rep. Jeannette Wallace. The decision on HB 308 was postponed. (As of Feb. 28, the final outcome for both issues is still uncertain.)

Following a health care rally in the rotunda, we walked two blocks to the First Christian Church where we ate lunch while listening to the speakers. Kim Tamarin, from the NM Center on Law and Poverty, explained the impact the Health Insurance Exchange will have on impoverished New Mexicans. The proposed exchange, while not perfect, will offer premiums to cover the uninsured and greatly increase the number of people enrolled in Medicaid, as well as offering subsidies to small employers for providing health care insurance to their workers.

Nick Estes, from NM Voices for Children, explained how the state could raise revenue with tactics such as taxing multi-state corporations like Target and reducing the capital gains tax deduction. Of course the most significant step would be to roll back the personal income tax cuts for the wealthy enacted in 2003.

*Barbara Calef*

# **CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING**

**Date: April 9, 2011**

**Place: Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2390 North Rd.**

## **SCHEDULE AND AGENDA**

**9:30 a.m. Gather and sip (coffee, tea, juice)**

**10 a.m. Business Meeting**

**Welcome**

**(Minutes of the 2009 Meeting--see September 2010 newsletter at [lvwlosalamos.org](http://lvwlosalamos.org))**

**Membership Report**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Fundraising Report**

**Other Committee Reports**

**(Janie, Lynn)**

**Bylaws Amendment**

**Adoption of Local Program**

**Adoption of the 2011-2012**

**Budget**

**Election of Officers and**

**Directors**

**Other Business**

**11:45 a.m. Potluck Lunch**

**12:30 p.m. Speaker: John Arrowsmith,  
Director of the Los Alamos County Utilities  
Department**

Please contact Renate Zinn (672-9681 or [rzinn\(AT\)cybermesa\(DOT\)com](mailto:rzinn(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 2011-2012, which begins May 1, will be accepted beginning April 1.** Please fill out the membership form on the back of this newsletter. Remember that if you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to our Education Fund, you must write a separate check! New members who joined after September 30, 2010 are paid up until April 2012.

## **ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Proposed Bylaws Amendment**

#### **ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS**

##### **Section 1. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

There shall be at least three meetings of the membership each year. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

##### **Section 2. ANNUAL MEETING**

The exact date of the Annual Meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting shall:

- A Adopt a Local Program for the ensuing year
- B Elect officers, directors, and two members of the Nominating Committee
- C Adopt an adequate budget
- D Transact such other business as may properly come before it.

##### **Section 3. QUORUM**

~~Twenty~~ **Fifteen** percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum at all membership meetings of the LWV/LA.

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

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

### **Officers:**

President: Barbara Calef  
First Vice-President: *not filled*  
Second Vice-President: Becky Shankland  
Secretary: Evelyn Petschek  
Treasurer: Rosmarie Frederickson

### **Directors:**

Membership: Kyle Wheeler  
Voter Services: Lynn Jones  
Arrangements: Renate Zinn (with Barbara Lemmick off-board)  
Lunch with a leader: Karyl Ann Armbruster  
Transportation: Janie O'Rourke  
Director-at-Large: Jane Sherwood  
Publicity: *not filled*

### **Off-Board Directors:**

Affordable Housing: *not filled*  
Webmaster: Betty Gunther  
Nominating Committee: Carroll Thomas and Michael McKay  
Fundraising Chair: *not filled* (Janet Hall: business fund drive)  
Newsletter Editor: Kathy Taylor

## LWV LOS ALAMOS POSITIONS

**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.

## ***New Study Proposal – Land Use and Transportation***

This study will look at how Los Alamos can plan for a more sustainable future by making good infrastructure, land use, and other decisions now. It will look at how we can ensure that transportation infrastructure serves all users, that land use decisions promote the types of investment and development needed to increase the long-term sustainability and self-sufficiency of the community, and that energy and other infrastructure choices allow for innovation and promote conservation of scarce resources.

*Janie O'Rourke and Kathy Campbell*

## ***Speaker: John Arrowsmith, Manager of the Los Alamos County Department of Public Utilities***

John Arrowsmith, the speaker for the Annual Meeting, will explain the county's Smart Grid and Smart House demonstration projects and talk about recent developments. Smart grids are electrical power networks that control and balance the supply and demand of power through digital information that integrates small- and large-scale renewable energy sources. Non-members are invited to participate in this part of the meeting.

## **Report on Progress of PACE in Santa Fe County**

Last year the Los Alamos County Council voted not to proceed with an effort to institute a special assessment district that would provide financing for renewable energy projects (Property-Assessed Clean Energy or PACE). Instead they decided to watch the progress of the program in Santa Fe County. This program is based on a NM Senate bill (SB 647) that was sponsored by Senator Peter Wirth and signed into law July 1, 2009. The concept behind the PACE programs is to help home and business owners to finance the up-front costs of installing a renewable energy system by creating a lien on the property to be repaid over many years through property taxes.

Unfortunately the implementation has been stalled by the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), which is recommending that the entire amount of the lien for the renewable energy system be paid off when a house is sold, whereas the intention was that the lien would be transferred with the property at the time of closure. There is an on-going effort across the country to work out a solution to this problem through discussions with the FHFA and also by passing federal legislation to clarify the status of PACE programs and Special Assessments.

## **Observer Corps Report**

The County Council extended Randy Autio's contract as acting County Administrator for another six months and began the process of finding a new County Administrator. They've chosen to go with a search firm, but with plenty of interaction with a County Council subcommittee. There was considerable discussion about whether qualified candidates would respond when there was a chance that the Los Alamos form of government might change out from under them, depending upon the results of the Charter Review Committee. The Council chose to move ahead despite this concern.

The County Council approved a 5% hike in electric rates to cover increases in the cost of services. This is estimated to increase the average residential monthly bill by around \$2.50.

*Barbara Calef*

## **Report of February 10 Lunch with a Leader: Gene Schmidt**

LAPS Superintendent Gene Schmidt explained to an attentive audience how schools are funded in New Mexico and the current budget for the local schools. In anticipation of severe cuts in the state education budget, the Long Range Financial Planning Committee has been looking at the potential consequences of an austere budget on Los Alamos schools and students. Committee member Kelly Myers joined Dr. Schmidt in the presentation.

They announced that before making any decisions, the committee wants input from the community. A multi-part survey has been designed to record public opinion and may be requested from the LAPS website <http://www.laschools.net/145910917123243/site/default.asp?>. Participants are offered the opportunity to complete one or more parts of the survey at their leisure. Let your voice be heard!

## REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

	Adopted FY11 Budget		Proposed FY12 Budget	
	General	Ed Fund	General	Ed Fund
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>A. Administration</b>				
1. President's Funds	\$50.00		\$40.00	
2. Secretary	\$20.00		\$0.00	
3. Treasurer	\$20.00		\$30.00	
4. Board tools	\$60.00		\$25.00	
5. Communications				
a. Newsletter	\$100.00		\$100.00	
b. Webpage	\$360.00		\$200.00	
6. Other Administrative				
a. Refreshments	\$75.00		\$50.00	
b. Travel (unassigned)	\$25.00		\$0.00	
c. Miscellaneous	\$40.00		\$100.00	
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>		<b>\$545.00</b>	
<b>B. Per Member Payment (PMP)</b>				
1. State	\$618.00		\$738.00	
2. National	\$1,524.40		\$1,845.00	
<b>Total PMP</b>	<b>\$2,142.40</b>		<b>\$2,583.00</b>	
<b>C. Committees</b>				
1. Fundraising	\$150.00		\$100.00	
2. Membership	\$100.00		\$50.00	
3. Lunch with a Leader	\$150.00		\$200.00	
<b>Total Committees</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>		<b>\$350.00</b>	
<b>D. Position Support</b>				
1. National	\$25.00		\$20.00	
2. State	\$25.00		\$20.00	
3. Local	\$50.00		\$25.00	
<b>Total Position Support</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>		<b>\$65.00</b>	
<b>E. League Meetings (inc. travel)</b>				
1. National Convention	\$1,000.00		\$0.00	
2. State Council	\$0.00		\$50.00	
3. State Convention	\$150.00		\$200.00	
4. LWVLA annual mtg	\$0.00		\$150.00	
<b>Total League Meetings</b>	<b>\$1,150.00</b>		<b>\$400.00</b>	
<b>F. Program</b>				
1. Voters' Services	\$600.00	\$1,200.00	\$100.00	\$500.00
2. Local Government	\$50.00		\$50.00	
3. Other Public Program	\$100.00	\$300.00	\$50.00	
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>G. Other</b>				
1. Ed Fund pass-through	\$0.00		\$0.00	
2. LWVNM 2011 Convention in LA	\$0.00		\$3,000.00	

3. Other		\$0.00			
	<b>Total Other</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>		<b>\$3,000.00</b>	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,292.40</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$7,143.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>A. Dues</b>					
1. Regular		\$720.00		\$900.00	
2. Sustaining		\$1,200.00		\$975.00	
3. Household		\$390.00		\$325.00	
4. Household Sustaining		\$665.00		\$855.00	
	<b>Total Dues</b>	<b>\$2,975.00</b>		<b>\$3,055.00</b>	
<b>B. Contributions</b>					
1. Members		\$0.00	\$500.00	\$225.00	\$100.00
2. Non-members		\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$800.00	\$700.00
3. Businesses		\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$1,025.00</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>
<b>C. Miscellaneous</b>					
1. LWVNM (for Voters Guide)		\$0.00		\$0.00	
2. Forum partners		\$100.00		\$50.00	
3. Memorial contributions		\$0.00		\$0.00	
4. From Ed Fund		\$700.00		\$0.00	
5. Interest		\$17.40		\$13.00	
5. LWVNM 2011 Convention in LA				\$3,000.00	
	<b>Total Miscellaneous</b>	<b>\$817.40</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,063.00</b>	
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,292.40</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$7,143.00</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>
<b>Income - Expenses</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF LOS ALAMOS
MEMBERSHIP FORM 2010-2011

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

Check payable to LWV Education Fund
enclosed (separate check please):

Tax-deductible contribution: \$

Name:

Address:

Phone:

e-mail:

- Interests (check as many as apply):
One-time activities (unit meetings, fund-
drive mailings, "Lunch with a Leader,"
etc.)
Affordable Housing
Membership
Arrangements (refreshments, etc.)
Newsletter
Budget
Observe County meetings
Public Relations
Election Reform
Sustainability
Fund Drive
Voter Services
Voters Guide
Local Government
Website
"Who's in Charge" publication
Not sure (just support LWV)
Other (please suggest)

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
Regular single membership: \$45
Household sustaining membership (two+
people at the same address): \$95
Regular household membership (two+
people at the same address): \$65
Unrestricted contribution (not tax
deductible): \$

Blank lines for additional information or comments.

*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.*

<b>IN THIS ISSUE</b>	<b>Page</b>
Calendar	1
Lunch with a Leader, March 8, Pat Casados	1
President's Message	2
League Day	2
Call to Annual Meeting	3
Proposed By-Laws Amendment	3
Nominating Committee Report	4
New Study Proposal	6
Annual Meeting Speaker: John Arrowsmith	6
Report on Progress of PACE in Santa Fe	7
Observer Corps Report	7
Feb. 10 Lunch with a Leader – Steve Watts	7
Report of the Budget Committee	8
Membership Form	11