



UPDATE

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

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

Website: www.lwvlosalamos.org

Volume 65, Number 8
March 2013

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

Calendar

- March 28 Board Meeting, PEEC, noon
- April 2 Land Use and Transportation Study Committee, 926 Circle Drive, noon
- April 11 Lunch with a Leader, Tom Ribe, Mesa Public Library, 11:40 a.m.
- April 25 Board Meeting, Mesa Public Library, noon
- April 27 **Annual Meeting**, Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2390 North Rd., 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- May 9 Lunch with a Leader, Carol Clark, Mesa Public Library, 11:40 a.m.
- May 18-19 **LWVNM Convention, Las Cruces**

Lunch with a Leader, April 11: Tom Ribe

Our next Lunch with a Leader will be a much requested repeat-Tom Ribe. This time Tom will give an overview of Los Alamos's power sources, and urge an update of the electricity supply over the next decade to address climate change. The County's power supply is vulnerable and unreliable and should be produced in Los Alamos, using a combination of energy conservation, green power, and natural gas power. Los Alamos has a moral and technological responsibility to lead by example in this area given that LANL is a taxpayer-funded facility of the US Department of Energy. Los Alamos County is part owner of one of the most polluting coal power plants in the US.

Tom Ribe is a native of Los Alamos raised by long time League of Women Voters activist Mally Ribe, who was very active in the Los Alamos League until she and Fred Ribe moved to Seattle in 1978. Tom is knowledgeable on natural resource issues relating to the Four Corners area. He worked for LANL (1992-1997) in the Environmental Restoration program. He has an MS in Environmental Policy from the University of Oregon and has written extensively on energy, public lands and wildfire. He is author of "Inferno by Committee, A History of the Cerro Grande Fire." He lives in Santa Fe where he writes, works in venture capital, the tourism industry, and as Executive Director of Caldera Action, a group focused on the preservation of the Valles Caldera National Preserve.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Date: April 27, 2013

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 2012 Meeting
(see July 2012 Update)**

Membership Report

Treasurer's Report

Other Committee Reports

Adoption of Local Program

Adoption of the 2014 Budget

**Election of Officers and
Directors**

Other Business

11:45 a.m. Potluck Lunch

12:30 p.m. Speaker: Michael Sharp, Vice President and Director of Redistricting Services at Research & Polling Inc.

Please contact Kathy Taylor (672-0152 or kathytaylor1000(AT)msn(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 2012-2013, 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, 2012 are paid up until April 2014.

Speaker: Michael Sharp, VP Research and Polling, Inc.

Michael Sharp will discuss redistricting in New Mexico. He has a Master's in Geography from the University of Arizona and a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from New Mexico State University. At Research and Polling, he is responsible for analyzing election returns and voter registration; maintaining the in-house sampling database; managing GIS research projects involving voter behavior, population patterns, and site location; redistricting election district boundaries; assisting county and state officials with voting precinct issues; and handling requests for New Mexico demographic and political information.

LWV LOS ALAMOS POSITIONS

Every year League members are asked to approve the program, which includes our positions. Last year members at the Annual Meeting asked for changes to the public transportation position calling for extension of the County bus system and continued financial support of the regional system.

At the same time a review of the Medically Indigent Fund position was requested. The review by Karyl Ann Armbruster and Mike Wheeler did not produce any recommended changes.

Certain bullets in the water position were also criticized by the group. Barbara Calef and Kathy Taylor discussed them and advised the Board to delete the reference to food security.

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; 2012)

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, 2012)

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.

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.
- Preserve riparian ecosystems and wetlands.
- Preserve public lands, water, and open space.

Further Guidelines

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.

ENVIRONMENT (2012)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos believes that our natural environment is integral to our community's unique sense of place and to our well-being and prosperity.

We support protection of this environment, including the canyons and other open space, vistas, wildlife habitat, and dark skies.

We support the use of natural processes to provide services such as storm water management in the built environment for the sake of healthy ecosystems and community livability.

Further Guidelines

The LWVLA supports final review, adoption and implementation of the current draft Open Space Plan, which develops a system of designated open space to protect scenic vistas and memorable landscapes; recreational, natural and cultural resources; and significant wildlife corridors and habitats.

We support adoption of a Rendija Canyon master plan that reserves the transfer land for recreational uses only.

We support adoption of a storm water management plan that employs green infrastructure strategies, such as infiltration planters, vegetated swales, tree boxes, and rain gardens.

We support adding green spaces in the downtown with landscaped road edges, medians, parking lots, and pocket parks.

We support limiting the use of herbicides in open space areas, as well as along roadsides where mowing and planting native grasses can be as effective.

We support a policy of zero increase in run-off beyond the natural rate for commercial and private property.

We support implementation of all goals in the Protect the Environment section of the LAC Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Council in 2005.

Execution of these actions will improve the quality of our air and water.

Proposed BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013-14

Officers

President: Barbara Calef

1st VP: *not filled*

2nd VP: Rebecca Shankland

Treasurer: Rosmarie Frederickson

Secretary: Evelyn Petschek

Ass't Secretary: *not filled*

Directors

Arrangements: Kathy Taylor

Lunch with a Leader: Karyl Ann Armbruster

Membership: *not filled*

Voter Services: Lynn Jones

Off Board Directors

Fundraising: Janie O'Rourke (Janet Hall for Businesses)

Publicity: Jody Benson

Land Use and Transportation: Janie O'Rourke

Webmaster: Kathy Campbell

Observer Corps: Lynn Jones

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Taylor

Nominating Committee: Carroll Thomas,
Michael McKay

Report of February 14 LWL: Steven Thomas

Steven Thomas, the new Library Manager for Los Alamos, discussed the revolution in information technology and how it is affecting libraries. The county's libraries are still very popular, with 410,000 items borrowed in the last year, an average of 26 items per patron. The national average is eight.

Thomas assured the group that the Los Alamos library system is keeping up with the times. E-books have been offered for more than two years and the selection of e-books, audio books, videos, and music is rapidly expanding. However, publishers do not like to sell e-books to libraries because they don't wear out. To compensate, they sometimes charge more or limit the number of readings before re-purchase is required.

There are many issues about e-books to be addressed by librarians and publishers, including preservation (e-books can easily be altered by publishers), storage, pricing, and inter-active components.

The issue of privacy continues to concern the public since the Patriot Act was extended for four years in 2011. Thomas said that our library, like many others, deletes the record when a borrowed item is returned. However, there is no guarantee that the link will be broken if the distributor of the book has direct access to the reader.

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos	Adopted FY13 Budget		Proposed FY14 Budget	
	General	Ed Fund	General	Ed Fund
EXPENSE				
A. Administration				
1. President's Funds	\$40.00		\$40.00	
2. Secretary	\$0.00		\$0.00	
3. Treasurer	\$30.00		\$30.00	
4. Board tools	\$25.00		\$25.00	
5. Communications				
a. Newsletter	\$100.00		\$100.00	
b. Webpage	\$200.00		\$200.00	
6. Other Administrative	\$150.00		\$150.00	
Total Administration	\$545.00	\$0.00	\$545.00	\$0.00
B. Per Member Payment (PMP)				
1. State	\$816.00		\$861.00	
2. National	\$2,040.00		\$1,906.50	
Total PMP	\$2,856.00	\$0.00	\$2,767.50	
C. Committees				
1. Fundraising	\$150.00		\$100.00	
2. Membership	\$100.00		\$100.00	
3. Lunch with a Leader	\$225.00		\$150.00	
4. Arrangements	\$50.00		\$50.00	
Total Committees	\$525.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
D. Position Support				
1. National	\$20.00		\$20.00	
2. State	\$20.00		\$20.00	
3. Local	\$20.00		\$20.00	
Total Position Support	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$0.00
E. Convention, Council, & other travel				
1. National Convention	\$1,000.00		\$350.00	
2. State Council	\$0.00		\$50.00	
3. State Convention	\$0.00		\$1,000.00	
4. Annual Meeting	\$100.00		\$100.00	
Total Travel	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
F. Program				
1. Voters' Services	\$1,600.00	\$1,800.00	\$100.00	\$500.00
2. Sustainability	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
3. Local Government	\$0.00		\$0.00	
4. Land Use	\$0.00		\$150.00	\$300.00
5. Citizens United	\$0.00		\$150.00	
6. Other Program	\$0.00		\$150.00	
	\$1,600.00	\$2,100.00	\$550.00	\$1,100.00
G. Other				
1. Ed Fund pass-through	\$0.00		\$0.00	
2. Memorials	\$0.00		\$0.00	
3. LWVNM state convention	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Total Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,686.00	\$2,100.00	\$5,822.50	\$1,100.00

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos	Adopted FY13 Budget		Proposed FY14 Budget	
	General	Ed Fund	General	Ed Fund
INCOME				
A. Dues				
1. Regular	\$1,035.00		\$990.00	
2. Sustaining	\$1,200.00		\$1,275.00	
3. Household	\$715.00		\$390.00	
4. Household Sustaining	\$665.00		\$855.00	
Total Dues	\$3,615.00	\$0.00	\$3,510.00	\$0.00
B. Contributions				
1. Members	\$300.00	\$600.00	\$300.00	\$600.00
2. Non-members	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
3. Businesses	\$2,200.00	\$500.00		\$500.00
Total Contributions	\$3,000.00	\$2,100.00	\$800.00	\$2,100.00
C. Miscellaneous				
1. Ed Fund Reimbursement			\$1,441.50	
2. LWVNM convention				
3. Interest	\$11.00		\$11.00	
4. Forum partners	\$60.00		\$60.00	
Total Miscellaneous	\$71.00	\$0.00	\$1,512.50	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$6,686.00	\$2,100.00	\$5,822.50	\$2,100.00
Income - Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00

Report of March 14 LWL: Gary Leikness

Gary Leikness began his talk with an explanation of the re-organization of a significant part of the County government. Last year, as a cost-saving measure, Harry Burgess merged the Community Development Department (CDD), the Capital Projects and Facilities Department, and the Economic Development staff to create the Community and Economic Development Department. Director Anne Laurent divided the new department into eight divisions.

The functions of the former CDD are now re-distributed in Building Safety, which issues permits, reviews plans, performs inspections, and enforces the nuisance code; Housing, which plans for improvements and increases in the housing stock, including affordable housing; Planning, which acts in an advisory role to provide review, analysis and recommendations regarding all land use related matters. Staff from the Planning Division guide re-zoning, comprehensive plan and development code

changes, and also serve as case managers for land use and placement permit applications.

Leikness, who directs the Planning Division, clarified recent discussions about the Los Alamos County Comprehensive Plan. Although the last complete comprehensive plan was adopted in 1987, many pieces of a post-2000 plan have been adopted, including the Policy Plan of 2005, a parks plan, an economic vitality plan, and a White Rock plan. The staff is currently working on adoption of a historic preservation ordinance. Still to be completed are a land use map and zoning code. Leikness wants to combine all the elements into one comprehensive plan, and hopes to finish in the next year. Following adoption by Council, he would like to institute an annual review to keep the comprehensive plan up to date.

Barbara Calef

Message from the President

Of the legislation opposed by the League of Women Voters, none passed during the recent session except the last minute cut in corporate income tax rates. There were some excellent bills that we are hoping will be signed by the Governor before the deadline on April 5. You should have received a list of those bills from the Action Committee. If you have not yet called the Governor, please do so today at 505-476-2200.

There are some unfilled positions on the proposed slate of officers and directors listed in this newsletter. Many of us on the board have served for many years and would enjoy some new faces. Please consider volunteering; if you can spare just a few hours a month, we have the job for you! If you have some time but are not sure what is entailed, give me a call at 662-3825 or [bfcalef\(AT\)gmail\(DOT\)com](mailto:bfcalef(AT)gmail(DOT)com).

Barbara Calef

Observer Corps Report – March 2013

Starting April 8th, Los Alamos will have air service to the Albuquerque Sunport. This service is largely funded by grants totaling \$312K, plus \$28K from Los Alamos County as a matching share. A lot depends on ridership, and the County Council approved the \$28K share on February 12 with high hopes of a successful venture. The carrier is New Mexico Airlines, and the airplane will be a 9-passenger Cessna 208 Caravan. They will be starting with three flights per day, with a 25-minute flight to Albuquerque for \$49.

At the February 19th meeting of the County Council, after a great deal of public input and council discussion as to which Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) to defer because of budget shortfalls, the council ultimately passed a motion to defer the Golf Course Improvements Project for 2 years, and to defer the Ice Rink Improvement Project for 2 years, excepting for parking improvements. This fell short of the dollar target for CIP deferrals that county staff was hoping for as they prepare for the budget

hearings in April, but these are difficult decisions for the councilors.

The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) kicked off their Mesa Smart Meter Study on Saturday, March 23rd, with a meeting of all interested residents on both Barranca and North Mesas. The purchase of the smart meters (about \$500K) by the Utilities Department was approved by the County Council at their February 26th meeting. While the county is paying for the meters, our Japanese partners are conducting and paying for the study itself.

As we look forward to renewable energy sources, the problem of peak load becomes more problematical. This study is intended to assess the responses of different populations to economic incentives for energy conservation during peak load times. In effect, the study will simulate energy loads, communicate peak load events to the study participants (via e-mail and texting), and analyze the responses of the study community. Economic incentives will be offered to the study participants for energy savings, although none of this will have any effect on their normal utility bills.

Lynn Jones

Land Use and Transportation Study

The Land Use and Transportation meetings will resume with a focus on residential neighborhoods. The first meeting will be Tuesday, April 2, at Janie O'Rourke's house, 926 Circle Drive, at noon for about one hour.

We will do a bit of review - we previously met once and began discussions about what makes a good neighborhood. At that meeting we talked about general attributes as well as critiquing a couple of our local neighborhoods. If we have time I would like to share a book that describes some land use concepts behind the pocket neighborhood movement.

All League members are welcome.

Janie O'Rourke



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

Check here if you wish to receive friendly reminders of upcoming events by e-mail.

Membership Categories

Single membership: \$45

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

Single Sustaining membership: \$75

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

Note: Membership checks should be payable to LWV-Los Alamos

Additional ways to support the local League

Unrestricted contribution (not tax deductible): \$ _____

LWV Education Fund (tax deductible): \$ _____

Note: Checks for tax-deductible contributions must be payable to LWVLA Ed. Fund and not combined with any other payments.

Interests (check as many as apply)

One-time activities (unit meetings, fund-drive mailings, etc.)

Affordable Housing

Medically Indigent Fund

Election Reform

Public Transportation

Fuller Lodge

Sustainability

Land Use

Water Issues

Local Government

Not sure (I just support LWV)

Other (please suggest) _____

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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