



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 *bfcalef(AT)yahoo(DOT)com*
Newsletter Editor: Kathy Taylor *kathytaylor1000(AT)msn(DOT)com*

Calendar

- May 11 Lunch with a Leader: Cas Mason, NNM Citizens' Advisory Board, Central Ave. Grill, 11:45
- May 14 Deadline to register for LWVUS Convention
- May 15 Early voting begins at Mesa Public Library in upstairs rooms 2 and 3, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. every day except Sunday and Monday
- May 18 Judicial Primary Candidates' Forum, UNMLA Lecture Hall, 7-9 p.m., 6:30 for refreshments
- May 20 Primary Candidates' Forum, UNMLA Lecture Hall, 7-9 p.m., 6:30 for refreshments
- May 27 Board Meeting, Mesa Public Library, noon
- June 1 Primary election day for voters registered in parties, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- June 2 Independent and write-in candidate filing day for local offices for the general election, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., County Clerk's office

Cas Mason to Speak at Lunch with a Leader May 11

The Lunch with a Leader speaker on Tuesday, May 11, will feature Cas (Caroline) Mason. She will be talking about the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB), which reviews the LANL environmental program.

Mason earned her Bachelor's degree and PhD from the University of London, UK. She and her husband moved to Los Alamos with their two girls in 1972. She has worked at LANL for 30 years as a chemist, and is currently a member of NNMCAB. She is also a member of LANL's Institutional Animal Care Committee, and the J. Robert Oppenheimer Memorial Committee, and is this year's facilitator for the American Association of University Women.

Members and non-members are invited to attend this luncheon. You can RSVP at [kaskacayman\(AT\)gmail\(DOT\)com](mailto:kaskacayman(AT)gmail(DOT)com) or contact Becky Shankland at [rebecca.shankland\(AT\)gmail\(DOT\)com](mailto:rebecca.shankland(AT)gmail(DOT)com) or 672-9106. If you cannot RSVP, feel free to just come on Tuesday, May 11. The extensive lunch menu at the Central Avenue Grill includes tax, tip, meal and drink for just \$13.50. *Karyl Ann Armbruster*

Welcome, New League Members!

We have several recent additions to the League membership:

- Joe and Lois Thompson (Friends of the League for many years)
- John and Marilyn Dienes
- Ilse Bleck

We're pleased to have you all as members.

Volunteer to Attend the National Convention!

Los Alamos needs a delegate to the LWV national convention, which takes place in Atlanta, Georgia, from June 11 to 14. Any member is eligible.

Participation involves meeting League members from around the country and learning what they are doing in their communities. Participants also vote for the national program and elect a new board.

For more information, see http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Council_and_Convention&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=155&ContentID=14677.

LWV Los Alamos will pay for registration and most of the costs of attending the convention. If you are interested, please contact Becky Shankland at 672-9106. **The deadline for registration is May 14**, so act quickly!

Candidate Forums on May 18 and 20

The election season is drawing near. Early voting for the June 1 primary will begin on May 15. Our League will hold two forums for candidates for office in northern New Mexico who are opposed in the primary election. Here are the details:

Forum for Judicial Candidates in the 1st Judicial District

Tuesday, May 18, 7-9 p.m.
(6:30 for refreshments),
in the Lecture Hall at UNMLA.

There are races in four of the eight divisions. All of the candidates are Democrats.

Forum for Primary Candidates with Opposition: U.S. Congress, District 3, N.M. House of Representatives District 43, Los Alamos County Council

Thursday, May 20, 7-9 p.m.
(6:30 for refreshments)
in the Lecture Hall at UNMLA.

There are two candidates for the Republican nomination for U.S. Congress; two candidates for the Democratic nomination for NM House of Representatives; and eight Republican candidates for the four positions on the County Council.

Annual Meeting

Ann Beyer Honored

At the Annual Meeting league members recognized Ann Beyer's fifty years with LWVLA with a gift of \$50 in Chamberbucks and an African violet. Ann commented that she would buy the appropriate fertilizer for the plant. She went on to reminisce about the early days of the League in Los Alamos. When she joined in 1959, there were many more members than there are now. The gates of Los Alamos had just been opened (previously a pass was required), so the community was still used to providing its own activities. Mary Deal was treasurer. There were two unit meetings each month, one in the morning and one in the evening, during which one member would give a talk about a pre-determined issue, followed by discussion. Some of the issues in those days were the absentee ballot, non-partisan selection of judges, and a non-partisan personnel system for the state. The League and AAUW sponsored a weekly radio spot on the local station, which Ann presented.

Board of Directors 2010-2011

Here is the list of the board members elected at the Annual Meeting:

Officers

President Barbara Calef
1st VP vacant
2nd VP Rebecca Shankland
Secretary vacant
Treasurer Rosmarie Frederickson

Directors

Arrangements Renate Zinn
Lunch with a Leader Karyl Ann Armbruster
Membership Kyle Wheeler
Publicity vacant
Transportation Janie O'Rourke
Voter Services Lynn Jones
At-large Jane Sherwood

Off-Board Positions and Committees

Affordable Housing vacant
Budget Committee Kathy Campbell, chair
Kathleen Taylor
Rosmarie Frederickson
Fund Drive Chris Chandler
Newsletter Kathleen Taylor
Webmaster Kathy Campbell
Gale Zander Barlow
Nominating Committee
Carroll Thomas, chair
Michael McKay
(plus one member from the board to be appointed later)

Marcy Leavitt's Talk on Water

Marcy Leavitt, Director of Water and Wastewater Management at NMED, explained to an attentive audience some of the challenges facing her department. One of the major concerns is the dairy industry. There are over 150 large dairies in the state, and they have not been well regulated in the past. Even though they have an average of over two thousand cows each, they think of themselves as family farms. Consistency in regulation is needed, but has not yet passed the legislature.

Watershed protection is an on-going responsibility. The department visits watersheds in the state on an 8-year cycle to track water quality. Funding from the EPA finances a program to redress degradation. The department is seeking an Outstanding Natural Resource Waters designation for wilderness areas to give the state a role in administering a part of the many acres of Forest Service lands. This effort, like that to pass legislation enabling the NMED to enforce the Clean Water Act, has been opposed by ranchers and developers. The ONRW hearing has been postponed from March to September. Leavitt commented that new regulatory programs most often are passed only when the public is incensed.

Leavitt explained that the terms of the Rio Grande Compact specify the quality as well as the quantity of the water to be delivered

downstream to Texas. Concern over increased salinity in the lower Rio Grande has therefore led to new research to discover the causes. New Mexico will not be held responsible if the salinity is found to be due to natural processes.

LANL works closely with Leavitt's department to resolve hazardous waste issues. A major concern is the quality of the storm water coming off the Pajarito Plateau. A study of data collected during a period of heavy rains in 2006-7 indicated high levels of PCBs in the run-off. The PCBs were banned in the 1970s, but have been deposited on the canyon walls and are washed into the streams by storm water draining from mesa-top development. While LANL has mitigated some impacts through its actions, the County needs to take action, too.

Barbara Calef

Elizabeth Best's Memorial Fund Goes to Three LAPS Teachers

Thanks to the generosity of League members wishing to honor the memory of Elizabeth Best, we were able to fund three projects designed by teachers through the Los Alamos Public School Foundation. The League announced the award as "offering a mini-grant or grants to an LAPS teacher or teachers in honor of Elizabeth Best, a League member who believed in principles of sustainability. Elizabeth served on the County Council and also the Board of Education of Los Alamos. Her passions were for economic and social justice, the environment, ethics, and sustainable living. The mini-grant should reflect one of these areas; it could be for classroom materials, field trips, attending a conference, or other projects created by the teacher. The amount given by League and community members is \$1010.00 and the League will select the winner or winners and publicize the award."

We had five applications, but could only fund three. And the winners are:

**Stephanie Rittner, Aspen School: "Sculpture Garden."* Stephanie wrote: "This spring every Aspen student will create unfired clay sculptures which have flower seeds embedded in the clay. These sculptures will be placed outside in pre-selected areas....Environmental forces, such as rain, wind, sun and snow, along with ground animals and birds, will cause the sculptures to decompose. The clay will return to the ground and the seeds will be left behind. Wild flowers will then begin to grow where the ephemeral sculptures once stood." Stephanie goes on to describe how the students will record temperature and weather and time of decomposition of their sculptures, as well as how far the flower seeds have traveled. Photos and journals will document the process. (\$600)

**Elizabeth Watson, Barranca Mesa School: "Waste-Free Lunch Day."* Educational talks and posters will show ways to reduce waste in packing lunches, culminating in a special "waste-free lunch day." Students will then measure success by seeing how many resources they've saved (and how much they would save over a week, month, and year). Waste-free includes reusable, recyclable, and compostable packing. (\$120)

**Kassandra Brandt, Chamisa School: "Field Trip to an Organic Farm."* The proposal was a field trip to Los Poblanos Organic Farm to see historical farming practices and how human and nature work together to shape the appearance of places. Because our grant couldn't cover all the expenses of this trip, we hope Ms. Brandt will find a farm such as Don Bustos's or Tesuque Pueblo's that can be visited with the amount available.

On behalf of Elizabeth, who would have loved all of these projects, we thank Carroll Thomas, George Best, Barbara Calef, Don Machen, Suzie Havemann, Becky Shankland, Chris Chandler, Wendee Brunish, Margery Wolfe, Kathy Campbell, Lewis Agnew, and Cary Neeper for their donations.

Becky Shankland

Tony Mortillaro Reports on the State of the County at Lunch with a Leader

Tony Mortillaro, Los Alamos County Administrator, introduced himself to the April 13 League group by describing his education and previous positions. He remarked that he is a U.S. citizen, but was born in Sicily!

Mortillaro then summarized recent activities in the County and answered questions. The County Annex has been vacated; most of the occupants have been re-located to offices at Airport Basin. There will be a grand opening there later this summer. School District offices will be moved to a building in Lavy Lane. Due to the recession, demolition costs are lower than expected. The Trinity Site will be cleared by September at a cost of \$3.4 million. (\$10 million had been budgeted.) The LA Apartments demolition cost 1.4 million.

The new municipal building will occupy about 1½ acres of the 4-acre LA Apartments site. It will be at least 49,000-50,000 square feet; if costs allow, the building will be extended to accommodate the records and archives. Additional development on the site can be phased in. One apartment building must remain for a 2-year period. It includes three units for the chronically homeless.

The County is looking for a new developer for the Trinity Site. As part of the RFP, applicants must tell the county what the tenant mix would be. It must meet the needs of the community. It is possible that Kroger (the owner of Smith's) would run the anchor store. In any case, the County will be the tenant and the schools own the property.

The new animal shelter has been completed; the Justice Center is nearly finished; the Canyon Rim Trail is under construction. Schematic planning is underway for a new clubhouse for the

golf course. The County will soon roll out a new housing rehabilitation plan and a new sign code ordinance. Code enforcement, which has been complaint-driven process, will become proactive.

The White Rock Redevelopment Plan has been completed. It includes a new visitor center west of the fire station, but has not yet been funded. After much community discussion about using roundabouts on SR 4, LANL announced that roundabouts would impede the transport of hazardous waste and construction traffic. Instead, the road through White Rock will be two lanes with additional turning lanes.

In response to a question about the County's loan to Hytec, Mortillaro explained that the County's high technology-oriented economic development program has financed 7 loans since 1994. Since the loans are to new businesses, they are, by definition, risky. However, the default rate has been only 3%. In the case of Hytec, the business was sold to 3M, which shut down operations in Los Alamos. As a result, the County says that Hytec is in default because the terms of the contract require the 35 jobs that were terminated. Discussions are going on between the County and 3M, which is paying Hytec the cost of the lease for the new building.

When asked about the large number of County projects underway, Mortillaro said that the projects are needed, and we can afford them. Gross receipts taxes from LANL are expected to remain high for the next ten years as a result of the major construction projects planned there. To protect this income from being appropriated by the State Legislature, the County has been working to develop alliances in northern New Mexico by sharing about \$2 million a year through a regional partnership program.

Barbara Calef

Report from County Council Observer

The County Council has been busy with substantive actions.

At the March 30 meeting, there was a presentation by John Arrowsmith, Utilities Manager, and Tim Glasco, Deputy Utilities Manager, on the current status of the Los Alamos Reservoir and a discussion of repair options and funding. The council decided to proceed with the repair of the reservoir, mainly for recreation purposes. The expectation is that the reservoir will be repaired by October of 2010, filled during the winter of 2010-2011, and opened to the public in the summer of 2011. The cost of the project is about \$3.5 million.

Following a presentation by Steven Brugger, Housing Programs Manager, the Council also decided to move ahead to create a Los Alamos Housing Authority. Once established, a Housing Authority will allow the County to participate in low-cost housing and rent assistance in Los Alamos.

At the April 6 meeting, Council passed a resolution recommending that the Valles Caldera Preserve be transferred to the National Park Service as a Preserve.

Council also passed a motion to proceed with Developer Solicitation for development of the Trinity Site Project. This followed a short presentation by Tony Mortillaro and much discussion.

Finally, there was a presentation by John Arrowsmith regarding a proposed renewable energy project with the Japanese agency NEDO (New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization). The Council passed a motion to proceed with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on this project. See the County website at losalamosnm.us and follow links to Public Utilities and then Smart Grid Demonstration Project. The project involves a

two-megawatt photovoltaic system at the old landfill, and a smart grid demonstration project in the townsite – very cool.

Lynn Jones

County Council's Response to PACE – Property Assessed Clean Energy

At the February 2 County Council meeting, Regina Wheeler, Environmental Manager, and Peter Franklin, a lawyer with Modrall Sperling Law Firm, presented the concept of a renewable energy financing district, and also its current implementation status in Santa Fe.

Regina presented the following background: A bill sponsored by Senator Peter Wirth passed the state legislature providing for the creation of renewable energy financing districts in New Mexico. Santa Fe has chosen to proceed with implementing such a district. The purpose of the district is to remove the main impediment to both residential and commercial purchase of solar thermal and solar photovoltaic systems for homes and businesses--that the entire cost of a 20- to 30-year system is paid up front. The financial district provides for a loan for the system that is paid back through property taxes over many years; and this property tax lien stays with the property, so that if the home is sold, the property tax goes with the home and continues being paid by the next home owner. This allows for incremental payment for the solar system, and also allows owners to sell their home without having to pay off the loan. Additional advantages to the participants are energy security, a reduced carbon footprint, and reduced energy costs.

There are three such districts currently operating in the Southwest: Berkeley, California; Boulder, Colorado; and somewhere in southern California. The typical loan cost is around 7%.

The costs for administering the program would be part of the loan costs. The administration can be done by the county, or the county could hire a third party to handle all the design, administration and financing of the district.

The Santa Fe implementation is a work in progress, although Santa Fe County is very eager to get the program launched. They have adopted an ordinance forming the district; and they have an RFP out for a third party to do the design, administration, and financing.

Peter Franklin enumerated the challenges to the implementation as follows:

First, unless the property owner foots the cost and then is reimbursed by the district, there is a timeline problem of payment to the solar provider/installer. This is because the system needs to be installed and certified before a loan can be given. This involves all kinds of hurdles and typical time delays that will have to somehow be streamlined.

Second, the district must provide cost efficient and attractive financing for the customer as opposed to a second mortgage or other financing.

Third, they have to assure the mortgage lenders that this tax lien on the house, which has priority over a home mortgage, does not threaten the security of the home mortgage. They also need to allow home owners to accelerate payment of their home mortgage while under the tax lien for the district.

Following the presentation, the councilors questioned Regina, Peter and county attorney Mary McInerny. In the end, the councilors felt that there was a lot of work needed to implement the district and that there were many unsolved problems. The council chose not to give direction to Regina, but rather voted to table the idea of the renewable energy financing district until they see how things work out for Santa Fe.

Lynn Jones

Kalogeros-Chattan Explains the Patriot Act at Lunch with a Leader

The March 9 Lunch with a Leader gave us a chance to hear about the Patriot Act from Mesa Public Library's director, Charlie Kalogeros-Chattan.

PATRIOT Act Provisions

First, she gave us the history: it was signed into law October 26, 2001, in the wake of the World Trade Center disaster of September 11, 2001. Libraries were especially affected by the section that gave law enforcement the ability to access library records.

Libraries have always prided themselves on being bastions of intellectual freedom where patrons can read about all kinds of subjects from all perspectives. The constitutional right to privacy and to freedom of speech and thought is threatened.

Proposed Reforms

So libraries sought to make changes in the Act. They asked that officials show evidence that the person being investigated is in contact with a foreign agent and that they describe precisely what items are sought (no "fishing expeditions"). The "gag" orders on libraries and patrons keeping them from talking about investigations (even to their families) were particularly draconian.

Failure to Reform the Act

The Act was to sunset in 2006, but was reauthorized by President Bush and the Congress until 2009. In late 2009, a flurry of bills came up to modify the Act. Ultimately, none of the reforms passed and the bill is now set to expire at the end of February 2011.

The Connecticut Case

Charlie gave us the illustrative case of the Connecticut librarians. After an article in USA Today claimed that there had been NO violations of civil liberties under the PATRIOT Act, four "gagged" Connecticut librarians spoke publicly

about their battle. They had received a demand using an NSL (National Security Letter) from the FBI for patron records for “any and all subscriber information, billing information, and access logs of any person or entity that had used computers between 4 and 4:45 p.m. on February 15, 2005, in any of 27 libraries” under their control. They were gagged from disclosing the request.

Statistics on Use of National Security Letters

These existed before the Patriot Act, but were rarely used. In 2000, 8500 NSLs were issued. Between 2003 and 005, the FBI issued more than 143,000 NSLs, only ONE of which resulted in a conviction in a terrorism case!

Effect on Mesa Public Library

They have no instance of requests for information under the Patriot Act. (If they had instances, they would not be able to say so, but they are allowed to say they’ve had none!) With the County Attorney, they have developed specific procedures to follow. They retain patron records for only the minimum necessary time. They shred Internet records daily and try not to keep any records of patron’s names.

If Mesa Public Library were to be served with a NS letter or other FBI demand, they would have to comply and would not be allowed to tell the investigated person or anyone else. They hope for sunset or repeal of this provision of the Act.

Rebecca Shankland



**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:

_____ 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): \$ _____

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)

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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