



UPDATE

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

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

Website: www.lwvlosalamos.org

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Calendar

- September 14 Lunch with a Leader, Central Ave. Grill, 11:45 a.m., Chick Keller
- September 23 Board Meeting, Mesa Public Library, 12 noon
- October 5 Candidates' Forum, Fuller Lodge, 7-9 p.m., 6:30 for refreshments
- October 7 Council Candidates' Forum, Fuller Lodge, 7-9 p.m., 6:30 for refreshments

Lunch with a Leader, September 14, with Chick Keller

September's speaker will be Chick Keller, currently most notably known as president of Pajarito Environmental Education Center's (PEEC) board of directors. Chick has a PhD in astronomy and astrophysics and has worked at LANL developing computer models of earth processes such as underground water, explosive rock interactions, and atmospheric flows in 3D. For the last 13 years he was the Director of the University of California's Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics at LANL. Because of his interest in most areas of nature from bugs and birds to stars, it is not surprising that he was one of the founders of PEEC. His deep interest in plant identification led him to become curator of PEEC's Jemez Mountain Herbarium. At the luncheon, Chick will discuss PEEC's goals and successes but highlight their proposal for a new nature center and what that would mean for the community and northern NM.

The lunch is from 11:45-12:45 at Central Avenue Grill. As always, you will be able to choose from a wide variety of items on the menu. The cost is just \$15, which includes an entrée; iced tea, lemonade, or water; and gratuity. Please e-mail me ([lunch\(AT\)lwvlosalamos\(DOT\)org](mailto:lunch(AT)lwvlosalamos(DOT)org)) or call 661-6605 to let me know if you are coming. Although you may certainly come without a reservation, it is quite helpful for Central Avenue Grill if I can give them the approximate number of guests they will be serving by September 13th.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

President's Message

In preparation for the November general election, board members have been working to provide voters with the information they need to make informed decisions in the voting booth.

Lynn Jones, Voter Service chair, has sent questions to the local and district candidates. LWVNM board member Jennice Fishburn has sent questions to the candidates for state office. The questions and answers, as well as the text and explanation of the proposed bonds, constitutional amendments, and Los Alamos charter amendments, will be published in the Voters' Guide, which will be distributed to every household in the county by the *Monitor* during the first week of October.

We are also planning two candidates' forums in Fuller Lodge. Both will be from 7 to 9, with refreshments at 6:30. For the first forum, on Tuesday, October 5, we have invited the candidates for Congress, for NM House of Representatives, and for magistrate judge. We have also invited the four unopposed candidates to give introductory statements.

The candidates for County Council have been invited to the second forum, on Thursday, October 7. Also on that agenda is an explanation of the proposed changes to the County Charter.

Barbara Calef

Welcome, New Members!

Paula Barclay
Sarah Gustafson
Pat Casados
Nancy Schick
Jeanne Cotter (renewed and moving to Santa Fe)
Ann Nobile

We look forward to seeing all of you at forums and Lunch with a Leader.

A reminder to current members who have not yet renewed membership:

Dues were due at the end of April and you will be dropped from the membership rolls at the end of September. If in doubt, contact membership chair Kyle Wheeler at [membership\(AT\)lwvlosalamos\(DOT\)org](mailto:membership(AT)lwvlosalamos(DOT)org).

We also send a big thank-you to Janet Hall for soliciting business contributions that will support our (expensive) Voters Guide, candidate forums, and other public events.

Kyle Wheeler

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-11

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: Kyle Wheeler
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
Web site: Kathy Campbell

Charter Review Committee Update – November Ballot Questions

In mid-July the Charter Review Committee (CRC) presented its report to the County Council on the issues presented by the citizen-petitioners who had proposed amending the Charter to require voter approval of large capital projects. For a variety of policy reasons, in addition to the County Attorney's opinion that called into question the legality of such an approach, the CRC did not recommend a Charter amendment that would require voter approval of capital projects. Instead, it offered recommendations for improving citizen participation in the Capital Improvement Project process and enhancing communication with the public. The Committee recommended a Charter addition that would "Establish a procedure for receiving, acknowledging and responding to citizen complaints and grievances." The Council accepted the CRC report for further consideration at a later date.

The Charter Review Committee is now pursuing a number of parallel reviews relying on subcommittees to lay the ground work for full committee consideration. Presently there are four subcommittees studying various sections of the Charter: Form of Government, Utilities, Initiative and Referendum, and the Consistency and Clarification (C&C). Several of the C&C subcommittee's recommendations are included on the November ballot as Charter amendments. The primary focus of these amendments is to clarify or simplify certain process-oriented provisions in the Charter. Others are intended to make the Charter consistent with state law. Los Alamos voters will be asked to consider eleven ballot questions.

- Question 1 addresses home-rule provision by removing ambiguous language and by clearly stating that the Charter is intended to provide maximum self governance consistent with the New Mexico Constitution and the

Municipal Charter Act.

- Questions 2 & 3 address issues in Article II of the Charter. Several of the changes are "clean up." A more substantive change included in Question 2 adds the ability for Council to amend a proposed ordinance without re-publishing the amended ordinance for an additional 30 days. The proposal would allow an amended ordinance to be considered at a future meeting not less than seven days from the initial meeting that considered the original ordinance. Under the current system, any substantive amendment to a proposed ordinance would require another 30-day publication period. The Question 2 amendment also clarifies the language relating to the passage of emergency ordinances and allows for passage of an emergency ordinance by a majority vote of councilors present. Question 3 is intended to address the very unusual event of having four or more vacancies on the council occur at the same time--for example, when a disaster might cause several councilors to die at the same time.
- Question 4 clarifies that an ordinance must provide for the method by which councilors and other elected officials are reimbursed.
- Question 5 clarifies language relating to Boards, Commissions, and Ad Hoc Committees.
- Question 6 proposes to amend Article VI of the Charter to bring it in line with state election laws. In addition, the amendment clarifies language relating to council elections and provides a method for resolving ties by lot.
- Question 7 is intended to amend the Charter to remove nonsensical and superfluous language in the Article IX provision relating to the Capital Projects Permanent Fund.
- Question 8 proposes to amend the Charter to require that proscriptions on county

employee political activities will be done by an ordinance that is consistent with federal and state law.

- Question 9 eliminates the Charter provision in Article IX relating to suing and serving a lawsuit on the County. This provision conflicts with state law. State law addresses this situation and a Charter provision is unnecessary.
- Question 10 amends the Charter to track state law regarding the publication of legal notices.
- Question 11 amends the Charter to remove the anarchistic reference to military law and replace it with modern terminology – “emergency law.”

The C&C subcommittee is continuing to look at more complicated substantive issues that are still considered “clean up.” In addition, the CRC and its subcommittees are pursuing the more complex and potentially controversial topics of Form of Government (What about a mayor?); Utilities (Does the Utilities Board have too much authority?); Initiative and Referendum (How many signatures should be required for a petition to proceed?). All of the CRC’s meetings are widely publicized and open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to attend and provide input.

Chris Chandler

News on Transportation Initiatives

Los Alamos County has hired an engineering and planning consultant team to study the NM502/Trinity corridor, from the County line to Diamond Drive. There will be a series of three public meetings beginning in October at which the community will learn about the findings as well as participate in a charette-like activity to develop conceptual designs for improving safety

and access along the NM502/Trinity corridor.

A Street Design Guidelines Policy has yet to be approved by the County Council. The Street Design Guidelines Policy that was recommended by the Transportation Board was sent back to staff and the Transportation Board by the County Council at its August 17th meeting. The concern by some of the councilors was that the policy would take control of street design away from the County Council. The Policy was designed to use the “complete streets” concept that takes pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit needs into consideration.

Janie O’Rourke

Minutes of the LWV Los Alamos Annual Meeting

April 17, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Calef at 10:02 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Los Alamos.

Attendees:

Karyl Ann Armbruster, Ann Beyer, Liz Bennett, Barbara Calef, Kathy Campbell, Jill Forman, Paul Frederickson, Rosmarie Frederickson, Lynn Jones, Mark Jones, Naishing Key, Michael McKay, Janie O’Rourke, Evelyn Petschek, Pete Sheehey, Jane Sherwood, Carroll Thomas, Renate Zinn. This constitutes a quorum (20% of the membership.)

In the absence of Secretary Susan Roach, the minutes were taken by Kathy Campbell. Readers will be Evelyn Petschek and Janie O’Rourke.

President’s Report. Barbara Calef highlighted the successful Lunch with a Leader program, which has been drawing more than 20 attendees monthly. She mentioned the public forums of the past year: Emile Nakhleh on Middle East diplomacy, David Gutzler on climate change, and a school bond forum. She thanked outgoing

directors Susan Roach, Wendee Brunish and Evelyn Petschek as well as those agreeing to join or continue on the board for the coming year.

Treasurer's Report. Rosmarie Frederickson reported that our expenses to date remain under the amounts budgeted for the general and education funds. She has not yet applied for reimbursement of some expenses (specifically, the Elizabeth Best fund) from the Education Fund. Income is lagging but in part this is a function of our fiscal year, which does not end until April 30. The annual fund drive comes near the end of the fiscal year, and dues paid in April for the upcoming year are recorded as income in the current year. No business fund drive was conducted in FY 2010, but a significant effort is planned for FY 2011.

Bills for FY 2010 expenses should be submitted to Rosmarie before April 30.

Minutes from Annual Meeting 2009. Minutes from the 2009 annual meeting were passed out. Kathy Campbell pointed out that it was not necessary, under standard parliamentary procedure, for the meeting to approve them, so they were filed for information.

Membership Report. LWVLA currently has 74 members: 19 sustaining single members, 21 regular single members, 9 sustaining households and 6 regular households, plus 4 national members. LWVUS will no longer automatically enroll donors to the national League as members. LWVLA should encourage its national members to renew locally.

Committee Reports. Barbara Calef reported that the Water Study Committee has completed its work with the adoption of a state League position on water in March 2010.

Bylaws Amendment. Pete Sheehey moved that the proposed bylaws amendment to Article VI, Section 2 be adopted. Ann Beyer seconded. The amendment would do away with the prorating of dues for new members who join in the middle of the fiscal year. Instead, new members who join after September 30 will not be required to pay dues the following year. The motion passed

unanimously. The revised section of the bylaws is attached.

Program. Barbara Calef reviewed our existing positions, especially the water position (adopted 2009.) She then went over suggestions from the program planning meeting held in March:

- Hold public meetings on fiscal policy;
- Sponsor a forum on health care in other countries, inviting members of Los Alamos' extensive international community to speak;
- Provide information about how renewable energy tax assessment districts are working where they have been in effect for several years (Boulder, Berkeley);
- Advocate on transportation issues;
- Monitor impact of the proposed Manhattan Project National Historical Park on Fuller Lodge.

In addition, of course, we will have multiple candidate forums for the primary and general elections and produce a Voters Guide for the general election.

Kathy Campbell moved that we adopt our current positions unchanged. Pete Sheehey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Committee Report. Kathy Campbell reviewed the proposed budget, emphasizing areas of change from last year. Mike McKay moved that the budget be adopted. Ann Beyer seconded. A motion to double the budget for Lunch with a Leader failed for lack of a second after Kathy explained that the budget is only a planning document. The original motion passed unanimously. The budget is attached.

Nominating Committee Report. Carroll Thomas presented the proposed slate. There are no nominees for several important positions: First vice-president (and president-elect), Secretary, and Publicity. Changes from when the March newsletter went to press include Kyle Wheeler as membership chair. Also, Suzie Havermann declined to be chair of the Affordable Housing committee. In discussion it

was suggested that publicity could be taken care of by those most closely involved, given a list of contacts. Lynn Jones will provide a list of Los Alamos contacts and Kathy Campbell will add some regional newspaper contacts.

Ann Beyer moved that the slate be elected. Renate Zinn seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The list of FY11 board members is attached. [See page 2.]

General Discussion. Carroll Thomas said that finding individuals willing to serve on the board is very difficult and suggested that we need to increase membership. Kathy Campbell observed that membership has in fact been growing, but this does not automatically translate into more candidates for the board.

Karyl Ann Armbruster brought up the fact that Tuesdays, when we currently schedule our Lunch with a Leader, is also the regular weekly meeting day of both the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs. Thursday and Monday alternatives were discussed. Karyl Ann will inquire if Monday would be better. Mike McKay said that we have excellent attendance and changing the day could create more problems than it solves.

Barbara Calef recognized our only 50-year League member, Ann Beyer, and asked her to share some of her remembrances of the League. When Ann joined the Los Alamos League, it had many more members. It held two monthly unit meetings, one in the morning and one in the evening, at which the speakers were local members. This led to a discussion of why there were more members then and fewer now. When Ann arrived, the gates of Los Alamos had just been “opened”, so there was still a strong culture of looking inward for community activities. But as elsewhere, more women joined the work force in the ensuing years, resulting in a drop in League membership around the country. Ann was state agenda chair for the local League. She remembers as “hot issues” the absentee ballot (which was resolved nationally); nonpartisan judicial elections (currently only retention elections are nonpartisan in New Mexico); and a non political state personnel system or civil

service. Also the League and AAUW sponsored a weekly radio spot on the local station, for which Ann was the League’s speaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Kathy Campbell

AMENDED BYLAWS

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. New members who join after September 30 will not be required to pay dues for the following fiscal year.

Report of August Lunch with a Leader: Keven Todd

Keven Todd, publisher of the *Los Alamos Monitor* for the past year, was the speaker at Lunch with a Leader on August 11. Todd explained that the publisher is equivalent to the CEO of a company. He is working to improve the newspaper's coverage and profitability. In the second quarter of 2010 the newspaper made a profit for the first time in a long time. At present, the *Monitor* has 45% household penetration, down from 60% five years ago.

Todd said that his main responsibility is to do a superlative job for the people of Los Alamos. With Garrison Wells working as the new editor, he feels "the best is yet to come." By October the web site will be improved. It will serve to alert the community about what is going on during the day, between publishing cycles. The *Monitor* will also "lead the way in election coverage." The newspaper has a dozen full-time employees, about six part-time employees, and other independent contributors. The delivery people are independent.

In response to a question, Todd said that the *Monitor* would not endorse any candidates this year. "The role of the newspaper is to report and inform." Members of the audience also asked who is responsible for the opinion page (the newsroom staff), and thanked Todd for publishing articles from the Sierra Club, PEEC, and other local organizations.

Barbara Calef

Lunch with a Leader—Mark Your Calendar

We have quite the line-up for our monthly Lunch with a Leader meetings this fall.

In September, Chick Keller will talk to us about the PEEC's Capital Improvement proposal (see page 1).

In October, Dick Mason presents valuable information on the implications of the new health care legislation. This will be especially relevant to seniors and small business people. November will feature David Brooks, the community-service coordinator who works with teens and adults in the court system. Following our December forum about the Charter Review, Ralph Phelps, current County Councilor, will give us more information and answer any questions we might have from the forum. Councilor Phelps has also been chair of the Utility Board and can clarify utility issues for us.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

County Council Observer's Report

Our new county attorney is Randy Autio.

Recently, the County Council directed staff to look into how to implement a partial flagging system for the Atomic City Transit. The Council also voted to support the designation of Outstanding Natural Resource Waters in federal wilderness areas of New Mexico. A letter from the Council will be sent to the Water Quality Control Commission.

Lynn Jones

PEEC's Nature Center Capital Improvement Endorsed

At its August meeting, the Board voted to write a letter of support for PEEC's proposal to build or redesign a nature center. The basis for the endorsement was the League's position on sustainability, which emphasizes equitable use of natural resources, protection of nature, and provision of "enough pure water, clean air, fertile soil, and sufficient sources of renewable energy."

Becky 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:

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.

IN THIS ISSUE	Page
Calendar	1
Lunch with a Leader	1
President's Message	2
Welcome New Members	2
Board of Directors 2010-2011	2
Charter Review Committee – Nov Ballot Questions	3
News on Transportation Initiatives	4
Minutes of the LWVLA Annual Meeting	4
Observer Corps	6
Report of Lunch with a Leader – Keven Todd	7
Lunch with a Leader – Mark Your Calendar	7
County Council Observer's Report	7
Proposed FY11 Budget	8
Membership Form	9

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