



UPDATE

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

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

Website: www.lwvlosalamos.org

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Calendar

- May 30 Education Study Committee, 4920 Sandia Dr., 1 p.m.
- June 3 Election Day 7 a.m.-7 p.m.**
- June 14 AAUW Fundraising event for Jean Nereson Memorial Fund, Oppenheimer Place, 2 p.m.
- June 17 Lunch with a Leader, Tarin Nix and Ellen Bond, Mesa Public Library, 11:40
- June 19 Concurrence Meeting for Natural Resources position, location tbd, 7 p.m.
- June 26 Board Meeting, Mesa Public Library, noon
- July 10 Board Meeting, location tbd, noon

Lunch with a Leader June 17: Tarin Nix & Ellen Bond

Remember to save the date! Lunch with a Leader is always on the third Tuesday. We plan to meet every month, even over the summer. On June 17, our leaders will be Tarin Nix and Ellen Morris Bond. They will be discussing the minimum living wage and how that might be implemented in Los Alamos.

Nix holds a Masters in Social Work from the University of Texas and has spent the last eight years working to advance progressive issues and candidate campaigns throughout the country. In 2012 she moved to Los Alamos to run Stephanie Garcia Richard's campaign and decided to remain here. Recently Nix ran the successful campaign to extend the Santa Fe Living Wage to Santa Fe County.

Ellen Bond graduated from the University of New Mexico with a degree in English and then earned her Masters of Science in Community Development from UC Davis. Bond became interested in the non-profit service world while working as a Vista Volunteer from 1978-1981. Since 2001 she has been Executive Director of Self Help, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting those in need in northern New Mexico. She has broad experience in casework, advocacy, case management, resource development and extensive experience in receiving and managing public and private funding.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

Welcome New Members!

Our membership has been increasing! We are pleased to welcome several new members who have joined our Los Alamos League during the past six months:

Julie Williams-Hill
Michele Poling
Carol Smith
Mary Van Eeckhout
Linda Goforth

Julie has joined the board as secretary and Michele has volunteered to help with the Voter Guide. We look forward to seeing all of you at League events.

Barbara Calef

LWVLA Education Study

The first meeting of the Education Study Committee took place on May 16. The group reviewed the objectives and agreed that most of the research would be conducted via the internet. At the next meeting, which will be held on May 30 at 1 p.m. at 4920 Sandia Drive in the Western Area, the committee members will divide up the work.

The purpose of the study is to review current methods of communication between the administrators of the Los Alamos Public School District and members of the Los Alamos community and to recommend options to improve communication and engagement among school administrators and community residents. If you would like to participate, but were unable to attend on the 16th, you are still welcome to join. For more information, please contact Susan O'Leary at 910-465-6719 or [susan.oleary\(AT\)yahoo\(DOT\)com](mailto:susan.oleary(AT)yahoo(DOT)com).

Primary Election

More than eighty residents attended the League's candidate forum for the primary election. Emma Lathrop and Angela Feng from the LAHS Hilltalkers assisted and the event went smoothly with many interesting questions.

If you haven't yet voted, you may do so from Tuesday, May 27, through Friday, May 30, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the Municipal Building or the White Rock Fire Station. The same polling places will be open on Saturday, May 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On Election Day, June 3, voters may cast their ballots from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Municipal Building, the Golf Course, or the White Rock Fire Station. Residents registered in the county can vote at any of those locations.

Jean Nereson Memorial Fund Event

On Saturday, June 14 the AAUW will hold a public fundraiser from 2-4 p.m. at Oppenheimer Place, 1001 Oppenheimer Drive, in the Patio Room. Local author, Stacia Lewandowski, will give an illustrated talk on early Santa Fe artists and sell her new book, "Light, Landscape and the Creative Quest: Early Santa Fe Artists". There will be a selection of delicious desserts. Entrance will be by donation to the LAPS Foundation and is fully tax deductible.

AAUW established the Jean Nereson Books Memorial Fund in honor of long-time AAUW member Jean Nereson, who taught school in Los Alamos for over fifty years. Nereson was also a member of the League of Women Voters for many years. The fund is administered by the Los Alamos Public Schools Foundation and will be used to provide \$5000 annually to purchase books for each of the five elementary school libraries.

Tiered Water Rates

The Board of Public Utilities held a hearing on Wednesday to decide whether to recommend that the Council adopt tiered water rates for the county. The Utilities Department was arguing that the purpose of the proposed ordinance is not to increase conservation, but rather to more equitably distribute the rising costs of operating the water system by charging a higher rate to customers who use above average quantities of water.

I read the following statement to the board:

“The LWVLA conducted a study of the County water supply from 2007-2009. Our League concluded that conservation is essential for the sustainability of our aquifer and that tiered water rates have been proven to be an effective measure to reduce consumption. We understand that the current proposed ordinance is intended to allocate costs more fairly, but we are still hopeful that it will encourage residents to use less water.”

The board voted 4-1 to send the ordinance to the Council.

Barbara Calef

Observer Corps Report – May 2014

At the April 29 Council meeting, Council followed up on the previous discussion on animal trapping in Los Alamos County. They passed a resolution supporting the banning of inhumane animal trapping in Los Alamos and requesting that the New Mexico Game and Fish Commission ban this use on public lands within the County. In addition they requested that staff bring them an ordinance banning such trapping in Los Alamos County except that performed by government officials carrying out their official duties. The ordinance will be coming before the Council in a future meeting.

At this same meeting Council approved the appointment of Timothy Glasco as Utilities Manager to replace John Arrowsmith, who is retiring in July. Tim has worked for the Department of Public Utilities since 1995 and is currently head of operations for natural gas distribution, wastewater collection and treatment, and water production and distribution systems. We welcome Tim as Utilities Manager and wish him well in his work.

On May 6, Council heard the report from North Star Destination Strategies. The work was requested by a previous Council. North Star did research on Los Alamos County and its assets and branding opportunities. They also conducted surveys both within and outside the county in an effort to understand its current image. Working with this knowledge, they drew up a basic platform of assets and visions for the county, and created some interesting approaches to advancing its image. They also came up with a catch phrase, which is “Live Exponentially”. This phrase is not intended to sell the county to outsiders, but rather to be used as a unifying phrase along with the county’s logo, which is yet to be determined. North Star provided some interesting and fun examples of how this phrase and the basic platform of assets can be used. Give it a chance. It has potential.

Lynn Jones

LWVLA Water Position

At the Annual Meeting League members noted that there were words missing from the text of the Water Position printed in the March Update. Also, Mark Jones requested that the paragraph about the San Juan Chama water rights be updated. At its May 22 meeting, the LWVLA board adopted the wording underlined below, which follows the wording adopted in 2012, and will replace the crossed-out words.

SUSTAINABLE WATER

(Adopted 2009; Revised 2012)

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.~~

The LWVLA recommends that the County take any necessary action to maintain its quota of San Juan-Chama water until a decision is made to build the infrastructure needed to utilize it, and that any plans for use of the water be designed to minimize the impact on White Rock Canyon.

Report of April LWL: Kim Gabaldon

Kim Gabaldon, the County Social Services Manager, was asked to return to Lunch with a Leader to report on changes she has seen since her last meeting with the League. She again invited people to visit her office at 1505 15th St., Suite A, in the building across Nectar from the Little Theater. Nicholle Cordova, Health Care Specialist, works in the same office, assisting with the Indigent Fund application process. Gabaldon began by handing out the May 2013 County Health Report card, which shows that from 2007-2011, 3.7% of the county population was below the poverty level. In August 2012 3.3% of the population was unemployed. The death rate for all causes was below the state level.

The big change in the past year is the expanded Medicaid program, called Centennial Care in New Mexico. It includes all children whose parents make less than 139% of the federal poverty level guidelines. The new portal is www.Yes.state.nm.us.

For many residents not eligible for Medicaid, implementation of the Affordable Care Act offers assistance through the health insurance exchange, accessible at bewellnm.com. The initial enrollment period has ended, but it will open again after November 15.

As a consequence of the new and expanded federal programs, the Community Services Division has experienced a decline in applications for aid. Previously they received one application a day, and twenty a month were completed. Currently they have received only thirty-one since January 1. Coverage in the expanded Medicaid program is better than it was for the County assistance program. Still, it's not clear whether we have indigent residents who qualify neither for Medicaid nor for Obamacare.

Last September Gabaldon reported that the Human Services Department was trying to intercept the second 1/8% of the Gross Receipts Tax, which funds her office. Through collaboration during the legislative session, SB

268 was passed, giving 2/3 of the fund rather than all of it to the Human Services Department. The Governor vetoed the bill's sunset clause. The NM Association of Counties is questioning the legality of the entire bill, but Gabaldon was philosophical about the situation. She pointed out that the NM Human Services Department (HSD) was not going to have enough funding for the expanded Medicaid program. Hospitals will now be paid directly by HSD. What has changed is who is distributing the funds. The change gives the state more power.

Barbara Calef

Report of May LWL: Chris Chandler

The County Council appointed Chris Chandler to the post of probate judge last August when the elected judge resigned. Chandler is currently running for election to the position, and so far is unopposed. In Los Alamos the job is not full time, requiring at most one day a week and handling 20-25 cases a year. The judge is not required to be an attorney and handles only "informal" probate, when there is no dispute and an original will is filed. All other cases must be heard in district court. Probate judges are also allowed to perform marriages and Chandler has performed twelve so far this year. Her office is in the Municipal Building and she is served by the staff of the County Clerk. New Mexico probate judges are affiliated with the NM Association of Counties and meet to network and receive training.

The role of the probate judge is to make sure the property of the decedent is transferred to the rightful recipients, who may include creditors as well as the heirs or devisees (persons named in the will). To do this, the judge appoints the executor of the will (called the personal representative in New Mexico) and helps the appointee to understand the process and do the necessary filing correctly. The Supreme Court has produced the necessary forms and Chandler has created a brochure to walk people through probate.

If they do not have an original will, the heirs must go to the district court, where the proceedings take more time. Chandler advised the group to make sure that their children and heirs know where the will is located. Along with that information, they should include a record of account numbers and real estate holdings. Not all estates must go through the courts. The public process can be avoided with a trust or designations on all assets. In some states, including New Mexico, the property owner can obtain a transfer-on-death deed so that real estate need not be subject to probate proceedings.

Chandler switched from explaining her role as a judge to a discussion of her position during the last legislative session, when she served as an analyst for the Senate Judiciary Committee. Analysts for that committee, of whom there are three, are non-partisan and must be attorneys. There is a template for analysis, but no rules and little preparation. They consider the legal issues for bills assigned to the committee. Bills go first to the Legislative Counsel Service, then to the analysts. Chandler commented that there were many constitutional amendments proposed during the session in an effort to avoid veto by the Governor. Many bills were designed to make criminal penalties more severe. Some of the bills were poorly written and would be difficult or impossible to implement. Chandler found that it was helpful to speak with the author of a bill as well as the lobbyists if she had questions or objections. She enjoyed the learning experience and might agree to serve again.

Barbara Calef

LWVNM Natural Resources Concurrence Meeting

The state League is revising its process for adopting new positions because so many of them are outdated. The LWVNM Natural Resources Committee is pioneering the new approach. Using positions from LWVUS, other state Leagues, findings from the state study of land use, and our experience as lobbyists, we have developed a position to replace the current one. This is a draft. It has been presented to the state board, but we are not ready to ask that they adopt it. First we will meet with the local Leagues for a discussion similar to a consensus meeting. However, instead of consensus questions, we offer the draft for concurrence. In this new approach, League members are invited to read the draft critically, ask questions, and inform us if they note omissions or if they disagree with the substance. We will have a recorder as we do at consensus meetings. After we have met with the four local Leagues, the committee will meet to adjust the draft as necessary before returning to the state League to ask for adoption.

Barbara Calef

The draft position is printed below. Members of LWVLA are invited to a concurrence meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, June 19. If you cannot attend, please send comments to [bfcalf\(AT\)gmail\(DOT\)com](mailto:bfcalf(AT)gmail(DOT)com).

DRAFT NATURAL RESOURCES POSITION

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes that government should promote responsible stewardship of our natural, human, and cultural resources in the face of growth and development. An essential prerequisite for protecting our resources is to require complete analysis of the environmental and fiscal impacts of all applications for development.

AIR QUALITY

The League supports programs that protect clean air for the public's health. Effective air pollution

controls should be implemented for both stationary and mobile sources of emissions. The New Mexico Environment Department is the chief regulatory agency responsible for air quality protection in the state. It is important that the public has access to the enforcement, permitting, and regulation development process to ensure that air quality is protected from incremental deterioration. Permitting and enforcement must be performed in a transparent manner.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The scientific evidence is clear that our climate is changing and that human activities are a significant factor. The League supports policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promoting greater energy efficiency, by developing renewable energy sources, and by encouraging further research on alternatives to the combustion of fossil fuels for energy. The League believes that New Mexico industries should be required to pursue carbon reduction strategies. The League also believes that government should educate the public about how to reduce individual carbon footprints and should offer incentives to do so.

ENERGY AND MINING

The League supports

1. environmentally sound resource extraction and power production;
2. research and incentives to develop clean, renewable energy sources;
3. strong measures to promote conservation of energy and water;
4. severance taxes on energy sources in order to assist communities with infrastructure costs related to energy development.

Mining and drilling activities must not be allowed to contaminate surface or ground water.

TRANSPORTATION

The League believes it is important to integrate transportation into land use planning. To reduce vehicle miles traveled, it is essential to encourage alternatives to the single occupant

vehicle. Thus, the League supports government decisions to

1. improve public access to mass transit, especially to link workplace and neighborhood destinations; and
2. improve public access to alternative forms of transportation such as cycling and walking.

The League calls for government agencies responsible for transportation planning to reach out to the general public to improve public participation in transportation-related decisions.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The League believes that the adverse impact of polluting activities, such as mining operations and waste disposal facilities, must be mitigated equally for all communities, rich and poor.

LAND USE

The League finds that the responsible stewardship of our land use resources is critically important to ensure the long-term health and well-being of all New Mexicans, to protect the resilience of our urban and rural communities, and to preserve habitats and natural landscapes for the continued viability of all species.

The League further notes that our land use resources are inextricably linked with other important issues (such as water, energy, food, transportation, air quality, and climate change). Strategic planning at the local, regional, and state levels must not consider land use in isolation. Government subsidies for development should only be approved when the benefit to society justifies the cost and outweighs any detriment to the natural environment. The League believes that, as the responsible steward of our land use resources, state government should

1. revise land use planning, zoning, and subdivision statutes;
2. require comprehensive planning by local governments
 - i. plans must be updated on a regular basis;
 - ii. plans must be consistent with regional water plans;

- iii. zoning and subdivision ordinances must implement the plans;
 - iv. state government must provide oversight, technical assistance, and funding to assure that all communities are able to comply;
3. assure coordination among key state agencies responsible for stewardship of our state's land use resources;
 4. improve communication and coordination between Native American communities and federal, state, and local government in New Mexico;
 5. adopt policies to ensure that all future road projects take into account the needs of all people, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and those using public transportation;
 6. assure the quality of the environment for people of all economic levels;
 7. achieve a balance between human needs and those of wildlife in order to preserve the state's fragile ecology.

Transparency and public participation in decision-making must be part of the process at all levels of government.

Eleven percent of the land in New Mexico is controlled by the State Land Office (SLO). The LWVNM believes that the SLO should model transparency and accountability in its actions and should include local communities in decision-making. The State Legislature should assure that the State Land Commissioner has the support needed to maximize profits and minimize administrative costs, while protecting the environment.

AGRICULTURE

The LWVNM recognizes the vital contribution that New Mexico farmers and ranchers make to our health and welfare by supplying us with food and promoting a vibrant economy for the state. LWVNM urges the state to work with the industry to promote research and education about

more sustainable agricultural practices. As stewards of our natural and human resources, we must preserve healthy local ecosystems for future generations.

The LWVNM recognizes that conversion to alternative ways of farming is a slow process. Costs must be considered in moving to more sustainable practices because it is essential to allow all consumers reasonable access to the key elements of a healthy diet.

The LWVNM asks the State of New Mexico to

1. provide funding for further scientific research on the benefits of increased biodiversity for raising farm productivity and lowering costs;
2. promote cooperation among neighboring farmers to share equipment and develop more integrated farming practices within local ecosystems;
3. provide training programs on sustainable farming and ranching practices;
4. adopt specific subdivision and zoning criteria to preserve agricultural lands;
5. provide assistance to institutions of higher learning within the state to integrate sustainable agricultural practices into their curriculum;
6. regulate the management of livestock and crops to prevent contamination of soil, air, and water;
7. encourage farmers and ranchers to cooperate with wildlife managers to actively restore riparian habitat and natural stream flows.
8. provide more funding for the Cooperative Extension Service for the support of local agriculture.

WATER (Adopted 2010, not printed here)

WASTE MANAGEMENT

The League supports policies that

- reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes;
- ensure safe treatment, transportation, storage, and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes in order to protect public health and air, water and land resources;
- provide for the management of civilian and military high- and low-level radioactive wastes to protect public health, and air, water and land resources;
- involve state and local governments and citizens in siting proposals for treatment, storage, disposal and transportation of radioactive wastes;
- ensure that radioactive wastes are transported, treated, stored, and disposed in an environmentally sound manner.

Annual Meeting Minutes

Minutes of League of Women Voters of Los Alamos Annual Meeting

April 29, 2014

Mesa Public Library

President Barbara Calef called the Annual Meeting of the LWVLA to order at 1:20 p.m. at the Mesa Public Library. She welcomed League members to the meeting. There were 24 members present, constituting a quorum.

Barbara called for volunteers to serve as readers for the minutes of the meeting. Lynn Jones and Liz Bennett volunteered.

Membership Report (Lynn Jones):

Lynn reported the League currently has 72 members, and noted that she had sent out renewal letters two weeks ago.

Treasurer's Report (Rosmarie Frederickson):

Rosmarie presented the Treasurer's Report for the current year. She noted that all financial monthly statements were available for any member to review.

- As of the middle of April, the League has \$7,700.62 in the checking account, \$2,142.83 in the savings account and \$6,768.32 in the Ed Fund.
- Through fund raising and dues collection in the current year, the League took in \$5,097.87 and transferred \$2,126.78 from the Ed Fund to the checking account to cover 2012 Voters Guide expenses. Expenditures during the current year have included payments for the National PMP and State PMP, \$1,891 and \$732 respectively, and expenses for sending delegates to the State Convention. Other smaller expenditures covered Fuller Lodge rentals and advertising for forums, LWL speaker expenses and webhosting fees.

Lunch with a Leader (Karyl Ann Armbruster):

- Karyl Ann reported for the upcoming year, that the LWL sessions will continue to be

held at the Mesa Public Library on the third Tuesday of the month. Food arrangements will be made with the LA Co-op.

- The May meeting will feature Chris Chandler, a League member and current Probate Judge. The topic will be a legislative update, based on Ms. Chandler's experience in the recent legislative session.
- The June meeting will focus on the wage picture in Los Alamos. Tarin Nix, who ran the recent living wage campaign in Santa Fe and is a new League member, is confirmed as a speaker. Karyl Ann also hopes Ellen Morris Bond will join the panel.
- Karyl Ann noted she welcomes feedback on the LWL program, including suggestions for possible speakers.

Observer Corps and Voter Services Report (Lynn Jones):

- Lynn summarized the role of the observer corps, and emphasized the importance of reviewing matters arising before the County Council and other local boards to identify topics of interest to the League.
- Lynn also reviewed the role of the voter services function in local voter education. Principal activities include planning forums and developing the voters guide. Volunteers welcome!
- Barbara reported on the forums sponsored by the League. In the current year, one forum was held regarding the vote on the UNM/LA mil levy. Looking forward, a candidates' forum has been scheduled for May 14th. Candidates who are opposed in the upcoming primary have all been invited. The races are for the Congressional District 3, the 1st Judicial District of NM Position 6, NM House District 43, and the LA County Council. The forum will be held at Fuller Lodge, refreshments at 6:30 and program at 7:00. Barbara noted that, since 2014 is a general election year, other forums will be scheduled in the fall.

Program Planning (Barbara Calef):

- *Current positions* - Barbara presented the current League positions. She also noted that volunteers are needed to proceed on several issues relating to local transportation. She then called for questions and comments from the floor.
 - A member noted that the League should follow the upcoming discussion regarding possible changes to local public transportation.
 - A member noted that when League members meet with Gary Leikness on affordable housing matters, the presence of older and abandoned homes in Los Alamos neighborhoods should be raised. Another member noted there is also an issue with RV parking that should be raised. Betsy Comly and Michele Poling both volunteered to assist in the meeting.
- One member inquired how the LA open space plan can be found. Barbara noted it has not yet been adopted by the County. It was suggested that this is another matter that needs to be followed when League members meet with Gary Leikness.
- Under the Environment position, a member asked about the meaning of "natural processes to provide services...". It was agreed that Mark Jones will work with Barbara to clarify the language.
- It was also noted that the last sentence under the Public Transportation position is either incomplete or missing a period.
- Missing words were also noted under the Sustainable Water position. Barbara will include a corrected version in the next newsletter. In addition, Mark Jones and Barbara will meet and clarify the San Juan-Chama paragraph. A number of League members volunteered to work on Sustainable Water matters (Mark Jones, Jody Benson, Becky Shankland, Lynn Jones and Julie Williams-Hill).
- With the understanding that there will be

some clarifications made in response to the above discussion, Lynn moved, and Karyl Ann seconded, that the League reaffirm the current positions. The motion passed.

- *On-going local activities*
 - Barbara indicated that local Sierra Club and League members have met with County officials on continuing water issues.
 - Barbara also indicated she had been contacted by another League regarding our sustainability position and living wage matters. This issue will come before the National League at the upcoming convention. The League's future efforts on this issue will begin with educating local League members on the situation in Los Alamos. The program planned for the June LWL will start this process
 - Consistent with our Sustainability position, the League has also been working with the local Sierra Club on a “ban the bag” initiative. The hope is to pass a local ordinance banning single use plastic bags. Barbara noted she had recently toured the Eco-Station and learned that Los Alamos is not recycling as much waste as compared to other communities. She also noted the County is opening a composting facility in Bayo Canyon.
- *New education study*
 - Barbara indicated Susan O'Leary has volunteered to lead an education study. Susan presented a study proposal to the membership for consideration. The focus of the study would be to look at current methods of communication between the community and school administrators. Susan has agreed to lead the study team.
 - Several members present noted problems observed in the community regarding this topic, and confirmed that there is interest in the League pursuing a study.
 - Barbara asked for volunteers to serve on the study team. Julie Williams-Hill, Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lynn Jones, Becky Shankland

and Barbara Calef all volunteered.

- *Program approval*
 - Becky moved, and Lynn seconded, that the new study and the existing program be approved. The motion passed.
- *State studies*
 - Barbara indicated there is an ongoing study at the state level on mental health issues. They would love volunteers from Los Alamos. Information can be found in *La Palabra*.
 - A new state position has been adopted related to reducing alcohol abuse.
 - The natural resource position for the state is being updated, Barbara is on the committee. The new position has been drafted and concurrence will be sought following meetings with local leagues. The position will be taken to the board of LWVNM for adoption, hopefully before the next legislative session. The position will also be presented at the state convention next April.
 - Barbara noted that the state League's Council meeting will be held on May 17th. Barbara and Lynn will be LWVLA's official representatives. Others are welcome to attend, but need to register. Registration material can be found in La Palabra.

Budget (Kathy Taylor):

- Kathy, Chair of the Budget Committee, presented the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year of the League. Rosmarie and Barbara Lemmick also served on the committee.
- Kathy directed members' attention to the two columns in the budget, one for the General Fund and the other for the Ed Fund. She also noted the larger expenses in the budget. A number of expenses will be higher this year because this is an election year.
- A League member asked about the large swings in the convention line items and the voters guide expenses. Kathy explained the

two year cycle for National and State conventions as well as the expenses that fall only in election years.

- Carroll moved, and Karyl Ann seconded, that the League adopt the budget as presented. The motion passed.

Election of Officers (Carroll Thomas):

- Carroll, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the proposed slate of officers for the coming year.
- Carroll noted the two big vacancies are 1st Vice President and Membership Chair.
- Nominations requested from floor, none were received.
- Kathy moved, and Evelyn seconded, that the proposed slate be accepted. The motion passed.

Other business:

- There was no other business to discuss.
- Becky noted we are the smallest League in the state and that we have a small board. She expressed special thanks to Barbara for her tireless efforts leading the League over many years.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Evelyn Petschek
April 29, 2014



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
Election Reform
Fuller Lodge
Land Use
Local Government
Medically Indigent Fund
Public Transportation
Sustainability
Water Issues
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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