



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

- August 16 Lunch with a Leader, Karen Kendall, Mesa Public Library, 11:45 a.m.
- August 25 Board Meeting, Mesa Public Library, noon
- September 20 Lunch with a Leader, Steve Foltyn, Mesa Public Library, 11:45 a.m.
- September 22 Board Meeting, Mesa Public Library, noon
- October 6 1st Candidate Forum, UNM/LA 7 p.m. (6:30 for refreshments)
- October 13 2nd Candidate Forum, UNM/LA 7 p.m. (6:30 for refreshments)

Lunch with a Leader: Karen Kendall

The speaker at the August LWW meeting will be Karen Kendall, who will be discussing the history and exciting changes at the Los Alamos Co+op Market. Karen Kendall has lived in Los Alamos with her husband Greg for thirteen years. They love this community and the abundance of hiking opportunities available in town and nearby.

Karen is the Budget and Performance Manager for Los Alamos County. She previously was the Business Operations Manager for the Department of Public Utilities and prior to that worked for the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration as Project Lead for the ERP financial system implementation known as SHARE. Before relocating to New Mexico, Karen was the Chief Financial Officer for Experior Assessments, a company providing occupational licensing and certification services to state and local regulatory authorities. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from California State University, Sacramento and has over 36 years of business, audit, and accounting experience. Karen is the author of *Berkeley to Beijing: the Journey of a Young Activist*.

Karen has been on the Co+op board of directors since the board was first established back in 2006, when Nancy Savoia put out the call for volunteers interested in creating a cooperative grocery store in Los Alamos. She has served as President and Vice-President of the Co+op Board and is currently the Board Treasurer. The Co+op opened in March of 2011 and is located at 95 Entrada Drive.

In September Steve Foltyn will be the speaker. Steve is the former chair of Art in Public Places and will explain the program and several of the committee's projects.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-17

Officers

President: Wendee Brunish
1st VP: *not filled*
2nd VP: Rebecca Shankland
Treasurer: Kathy Taylor
Secretary: Barbara Calef

Directors

Reservations: Amy Birnbaum
Lunch with a Leader: Karyl Ann Armbruster
Membership: Tarin Nix
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Publicity: Jody Benson
Director at Large: Akkana Peck
Director at Large: Rosmarie Frederickson

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Webmaster: Barbara Lemmick
Assistant Webmaster: Julie Williams-Hill
Observer Corps: Lynn Jones
Newsletter Editor: Kathy Taylor
Nominating Committee: Carroll Thomas, Tarin Nix

President's Message

At the League of Women Voters of the United States national convention that I attended last June, the talk that intrigued me the most was given by Amanda Taub, of Vox News and The New York Times. Ms. Taub described how the message of some candidates that appeals to the segment of the US population, called authoritarians, that distrusts “others” and fears social change, can be so powerful. These folks are more likely to vote in favor of giving up some of their rights in order to gain a sense of safety. She gave a brief history of authoritarianism in America and its effect on voting patterns in the past several elections.

Ms. Taub presented data showing that voters who fit the authoritarian profile used to be a small subset of voters equally divided between the Republican and Democratic parties. But in the past few decades, the number of authoritarian voters has increased and has become heavily concentrated in the Republican Party. This is presumably a result of the increasing rate of social change since the mid-1960's and the leadership role that Democratic administrations have played in many of those changes (Kennedy/Johnson in the civil rights movement and Obama/Biden in the marriage equality movement).

In the early 1990's, psychologist Stanley Feldman developed a four-question quiz focused on parenting skills that provided a strong correlation with authoritarian personalities (distrust of those that are not like us and fear of social change).

For each question in the quiz, the respondent is presented with two qualities and is asked to choose the one that they would prefer to see their children (or the children in their community) exhibit.

The choices are as follows:

- Respect for elders or independence
- Well-behaved or considerate
- Good manners or curiosity
- Obedience or self-reliance

In each case, valuing the qualities described in the first choice corresponds to an authoritarian personality type. Respondents who valued the second sets of choices tended to consider fighting discrimination and embracing social change to be very important. I can definitely tell you which traits were valued in my house when I was growing up, and every boss I have ever had can tell you that obedience was not one of them.

Given these results, it is easy to see how political messages emphasizing that dangers come from those who are different from us in some simplistic and easily identifiable way (race, religion, sexual orientation, etc.) resonate with authoritarian voters. The promises to keep them safe from external threats and to resist social change provide the reassurance and the sense of security that these voters are looking for.

But for those of us who believe that we are more alike than we are different and that there is plenty of common ground between people of all races and religions, we should not despair. All but the most hardcore authoritarian stalwarts have core beliefs that value fair treatment and empathy. It is up to all of us to help them understand that the threats can be identified and combatted without vilifying entire peoples, and that by treating every compassionate human being with compassion in return, we can all work together to create a more peaceful and inclusive global society and to more effectively combat the real threats to provide safety and security to all the people of this planet.

Report of July LWL: Beverly Billie of Tewa Women United

July's Lunch with a Leader featured Beverly Billie, the Cultural and Outreach Coordinator for Tewa Women United (TWU).

Billie has an interesting background. Her father comes from Acoma Pueblo, and is a member of the Zuni Eagle clan. Her mother is from the Taos Pueblo Water clan. They met at the Indian School in Santa Fe and Billie was raised in

Albuquerque, where her mother worked for the Indian Health Service. She didn't speak either native language when growing up, and had to communicate with her grandfather (a Tiwa speaker from Taos) in sign language; she's learning the language now.

Billie said the pueblos were matriarchal until the Hispanics came, and later President Lincoln established governorships, not wanting to deal with the women, who were the traditional tribal leaders. TWU, based in Española, is an intertribal organization that offers outreach training, education, and cultural support to all women and girls, not just those from local tribes. Early in TWU's history, its leaders went to Smith College to learn how to advocate for women effectively, and Gloria Steinem started the Women's Leadership and Economic Freedom program for the organizers.

TWU offers a wide range of programs for all ages. One of their most important programs was started in 1989 to combat violence against women.

The V.O.I.C.E.S. program offers counseling (up to 8 talking appointments) and referral services to victims of sexual violence, including the Brave Voices project for children and the Spirit of Butterfly Project for adults.

The A'Gin program teaches girls about healthy sexuality and healthy relationships. They have a successful curriculum, taught in schools in Espanola and the Pueblos, based on the traditional Moon Time ceremony, and they offer all girls a summer program called Butterfly Wings.

The Indigenous Women's Health and Reproductive Justice program helps women take charge of their healthcare and make their own choices, while integrating traditional knowledge. That includes a birthing/doula program (Billie is one of the teachers) as well as education on breastfeeding and parenting.

There are men who help support TWU's work, and go into the communities to talk about the issues with men, but domestic violence is a subject that's very difficult to talk about in the

pueblos. They try to train tribal government police how to approach and support victims, and they've made a lot of progress but it's slow going.

Elders have always been important to decision-making within the pueblos. Today, TWU has a "Circle of Grandmothers" that meets twice a month to provide grounding and cultural guidance.

The Environmental Health and Justice program works to increase awareness of environmental issues, including farming (Native American farming is almost all organic), and advocates for the needs of the pueblo communities. They run the annual "Gathering for Mother Earth," a weekend-long event open to all to celebrate love for the earth. This year the event will be October 15-16.

Billie stressed that everyone was welcome at their events, such as the Gathering for Mother Earth, and also at the feast days at the various pueblos. During feast days the puebloans believe in taking care of everybody and welcoming visitors into their homes.

Akkana Peck, Barbara Calef

Observer Corps Reports County Council

At the June 28th County Council meeting, the council picked our own Kathy Taylor to be the new member of the Board of Public Utilities. It is a big job, and we wish her well.

At the same meeting, the County Council chose Anne Nobile, another of our League members, to be the replacement Probate Judge until the term ends in December. Anne is also running for Probate Judge in the fall election.

An interesting project by the county was to modify the facade of the restrooms in what most of us think of as the Kiwanis Sunrise Park. The county worked with the Kiwanis to set up a plaque honoring the role of the Kiwanis in establishing the park, but they also formalized the name of the park to "Los Alamos Project Main Gate Park," and made the restrooms look like the original Main Gate entrance from the 1950's. Take a look. It is pretty cool.

Lynn Jones

Board of Public Utilities

At their July meeting the Board discussed natural gas rates (pass-through rate structure and a rate decrease). DPU will bring a draft ordinance to the Board on August 17th. DPU is recommending that the Board keep the pass-through rate and decrease the other component of the rate structure. The Board also discussed and voted to not permit customers to opt out of having a smart meter installed. Smart meters are still about a year or two out.

Board of Public Utilities Upcoming August 17th meeting

Two public hearings will go to the Board on August 17th, a Water Rate Increase by 10-percent across the board; a Natural Gas Rate Decrease and the removal of the sunset clause for the pass-through rate structure.

The DPU has published two Open Forum pages for public comment on the two public hearings. They are open now. Public comments will be provided to the Board on Aug. 16th.

http://www.peakdemocracy.com/portals/119/forum_home?phase=open

Julie Williams-Hill



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 Education 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
Budget, Finances
Elections
Water Issues
Land Use
Local Government
Health Care
Money in Politics
Website, social media
Other (please suggest)
Education
Living Wage
Voting Rights/Voter Services
Sustainability
Public Transportation
Public Relations
Newsletter
Membership
Not sure (I just support LWV)

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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