



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

- February 6 Program Planning Meeting, 926 Circle Dr., 7 p.m.
- February 7 Election Day for School Board and UNM-LA Advisory Board
- February 8 Legislative Reception, Garrett's Desert Inn, Santa Fe, 5:30 p.m.
- February 9 League Day at the Legislature, NM State Land Office, 10:30 a.m.
- February 21 Lunch with a Leader, Andrea Cunningham, Mesa Public Library, 11:45 a.m.
- February 23 Board Meeting, Mesa Public Library, noon
- March 1 Fund Drive Party, 6 Mariposa Ct., White Rock, 7 p.m.

Lunch with a Leader: Andrea Cunningham

Lunch with a Leader on February 21 will feature Andrea Cunningham, who will discuss the role of the public health office in Los Alamos. Cunningham formerly worked for the NM State Department of Health as the Los Alamos County public health nurse manager. Currently she is a program coordinator for the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board. She will discuss the role of the public health office in Los Alamos, which is now open for only a few hours a week. It was open all week when she worked there.

On March 21, we will be honored to have Chief Justice Charles Daniels of the New Mexico Supreme Court as our speaker. The Justice will talk about bail reform in New Mexico: working to improve public safety while protecting individual rights.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-17

Officers

Co-Presidents: Barbara Calef and
Rebecca Shankland

1st VP: *not filled*

2nd VP: *not filled*

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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

Welcome, New League Members!

We look forward to meeting you in upcoming
meetings.

Diann Mills

McIlwaine Archer

Jeannette Mortensen

Co-President's Message: How To Change the World (at the Women's March on Washington)

GATHER UP: a clear plastic backpack; a tiny
purse with cash, ID, cell phone (thanks, Karyl
Ann); lunch and water bottle in 12 x 12" plastic
bag; as many signs as you can carry; NM
yellow-and-red sash; comfy shoes for standing
and marching 9 hours without a break; pink
pussy-ears hat; good will wishes from hundreds
of friends; the spirit of all the women who fought
for suffrage long ago.

TRAVEL: to Washington DC on three different
planes and feel the camaraderie when you see the
pink hats and other women traveling light and
looking determined.

REJOICE: at seeing your NM flag waving
proudly at the promised NM meeting point; at
seeing your NM Representatives (Ben Ray Lujan
and Michelle Lujan Grisham) and Senator (Tom
Udall) cheering us on; at learning that Sen.
Heinrich was marching with his son; at seeing an
old friend marching; at finding 4 of the 19
people I'd planned to find via cell phone.

DESPAIR: at not finding many League friends,
who were lost in the masses of people and
unreachable in the chaos of multiple cell phones
that couldn't connect.

GIVE UP: on hearing or seeing the speeches (but
cheer along with the crowds anyway), on trying
to reach a porta-potty or bench to sit on.

SURVIVE: the huge crowds because they are
friendly and peaceful (not a single arrest was
made); the long hours of standing by reading the
variety of creative signs:

Rights Make Might

We Will Over-comb

Make America Indigenous Again

Accept My Existence or Expect My Resistance

Pussyhat Riot

Love Not Hate Makes America Great

May all fences have gates.

If my uterus was a gun, You wouldn't dare regulate it.

There will be hell toupee.

Men of Quality Do Not Fear Equality

When they go low, We go local.

Women's Rights Are Not Up for Grabs

Money for Education Not Incarceration

Tweet others the way you want to be tweeted.

My favorite moment came when the marchers were milling about at an intersection, not knowing which way to go. A policeman on top of an armored tank shouted, "Ladies, it's this way!!" and pointed behind him. A great roar of "thank you!" was heard.

The question is whether this event WILL change the world? Numbers might be a guide: the Women's March was three times larger than the Inauguration crowd. But whether a one-time march can have enough momentum to reverse a dictatorial government's march to uncivil bigotry is worrisome.

At our legislative preview, the last question from the audience was, "What can citizens do to affect the legislature?" Stephanie Garcia Richard answered that we should contact legislators with our views. In addition I think we can do even more if we gather in groups like the League of Women Voters to educate ourselves and lobby together for good government. And keep on marching!

Becky Shankland

Program Planning

In preparation for our Annual Meeting in April and the LWVNM Convention in May, we will hold a program planning meeting on Monday, February 6, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Amy Birnbaum's home, 926 Circle Drive in Los Alamos. All League members are invited to the event. Each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues where the

League will focus its time, talent, and money. To keep League program vital, it is important that a large number of League members participate in the League program planning.

At the meeting we will consider whether there are local issues that should be addressed based on our League's current positions (on our website at <http://lwvlosalamos.org>). We also ask members to consider whether any of our positions need to be updated or whether there are other studies to be undertaken.

In addition we will discuss issues for the state League to consider. The state positions are on-line at <http://www.lwvnm.org/positions.html>. The LWVNM board recently revised the education and judiciary positions. League advocacy must be based on our positions. What are we missing?

Barbara Calef

Two League Events in Santa Fe in February

Each year the League welcomes members and friends to visit Santa Fe to learn about the Legislature, the State Capitol (the Roundhouse), and legislation for the current session. You can participate in the evening event where we visit with our legislators and the daytime event where we have talks and visit the Roundhouse—and you can of course stay overnight if you want to save driving back and forth. Carpooling is advised: contact Becky Shankland at [Rebecca.shankland\(AT\)gmail\(DOT\)com](mailto:Rebecca.shankland(AT)gmail(DOT)com) or 672-9106 or 412-0776.

Legislative Reception, February 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

LWVNM is again organizing a legislative reception during the session. All New Mexico state legislators and all League members are invited to attend the event, which will be held in Santa Fe at Garrett's Desert Inn (311 Old Santa Fe Trail) on Wednesday, February 8, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. It's a chance to chat with legislators from around the state. James Jimenez, Executive

Director of NM Voices for Children, will speak about adequately funding essential services.

You can park for free at Garrett's Desert Inn for the event.

League Day at the Legislature, February 9

League members and friends are invited to two different places: talks at the State Land Office auditorium about legislative issues and visits to the legislature before and/or after the talks.

Again, carpooling is recommended: contact Becky Shankland at [Rebecca.shankland\(AT\)gmail\(DOT\)com](mailto:Rebecca.shankland(AT)gmail(DOT)com) or 672-9106 or 412-0776.

Talks from 10:30-12 noon

League members and friends will assemble at the State Land Office, Morgan Hall, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail (across the street from Garrett's Desert Inn), to hear Santa Fe Schools Superintendent Veronica Garcia speak about educational funding issues. Then Julianna Koob, legislative advocate for Planned Parenthood, will speak about current reproductive rights issues.

Visits to the Roundhouse, 8 a.m. and/or afternoon

Let us know if you'd like to join a small group of Roundhouse visitors (contact Becky Shankland at [Rebecca.shankland\(AT\)gmail\(DOT\)com](mailto:Rebecca.shankland(AT)gmail(DOT)com) or 672-9106 or 412-0776).

At the Roundhouse, various House and Senate committees meet at 8 or 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to discuss the bills on their agendas. You can look at the schedules at <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Calendar/Session>. The meetings are open to the public and comment is invited after each bill is introduced. You can find out which committees are meeting and what is on their agendas by picking up a schedule (one for House committees and one for Senate committees) from the table on your right when you enter from Old Santa Fe Trail and we can help steer you to hearings you want to attend.

League Day is also an opportunity for League members to visit with your legislators and lobby for LWVNM positions. Packets of materials will be available at the legislative reception and at the League's table on the ground floor of the Roundhouse on the morning of the 9th. They will include fact sheets about the legislation the League is supporting or opposing and a list of priority legislation for you and your legislators. If the representative or senator is unavailable, you can leave a message or handout with the secretary. They appreciate receiving your input.

Office locations for our legislators:

Senator Richard Martinez (Los Alamos)
Room 319

Senator Carlos Cisneros (White Rock)
Room 325B

Representative Stephanie Garcia Richard
Room 313B.

Report of January Lunch with a Leader: Karen Williams

On June 18 Karen Williams, an emergency room nurse at LAMC, was participating in a marathon in the Valles Caldera. She was running the half-marathon loop for the second time, going from bright light into shade, when she saw a bear running at her and spotted a cub farther back. The attack was sudden and brief. The bear bit her arms and then, because she yelled, attacked her head. Williams explained that bears don't like noise and strike at the source. Remembering the experience of the runner who was badly mauled in Valle Canyon under similar circumstances the previous year, Williams shut up and stopped moving, remaining motionless for ten minutes, until the bear and her cubs had left. She had to wait another half hour before the last two racers reached her and went to fetch help.

Williams was taken to the hospital and recovered completely except for the loss of an eyebrow. However, the mama bear, who was only protecting her cubs, was shot so that her head could be tested for rabies, as required by law.

Williams was appalled and began to inquire about the need for the statute.

She learned that rabies is transmitted by contact with the saliva, brain tissue, or cerebral spinal fluid. Skunks, bats, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, dogs are all carriers. In 2012 bats and skunks were the predominant carriers in New Mexico. Since record-keeping began in 1900, no bear has been found to carry rabies.

Williams pointed out that the current protocol is very expensive, requiring that the animal be located and shot, that the head be transported to a laboratory and examined. In addition, the cubs needed to be rescued and cared for until they were large enough to survive without their mother.

An alternative in most situations is to administer the rabies vaccine, which is 100% effective if started within five days of contact. Unlike the older version of the vaccine, an injection of the modern medication is no more painful than a flu shot.

Williams asked Representative Stephanie Garcia Richard to help change the law. HB 109, if passed, would amend the statute to require that the Department of Public Health take into consideration the species, the circumstances of exposure, the epidemiology of rabies in the area, and the animal's history and health status before deciding how to deal with the animal. The bill would prohibit the destruction of a wild animal that has attacked a person UNLESS the animal was behaving in a predatory manner, or it was of a species identified as a "rabies reservoir species." Another exception is made if the victim might be unable to tolerate the vaccine, for instance because of a weakened immune system. If a physician determines that such is the case, the animal may be killed and tested.

Saying "the squeaky wheel gets the oil," Williams asked for assistance in lobbying legislators and the governor to get the bill passed.

Barbara Calef

Observer Corps Reports

County Council

At their December 20th meeting, the County Council passed a list of recreation projects to be included in the Recreation Bond. This \$20M Bond will go before the voters in May if all goes as planned. The list of projects includes a multi-generation pool, golf course improvements, Overlook Park ball field improvements, Piñon Park splash pad, and a recreation center with an indoor ice rink. Money in the existing Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) fund will be added to the \$20M to complete all projects.

At the January 10th meeting, the County Council honored Craig Martin for his volunteer services on open space and trails, and declared January 11, 2017 as "Craig Martin Day." Those were well-deserved honors.

As always happens at the first council meeting of a new year, the County Council elected a new Chair and Vice-Chair. David Izraelevitz was elected Council Chair, and Susan O'Leary was elected Vice-Chair. We congratulate them both, and wish them a successful year.

Harry Burgess, our County Manager, announced that Charlie Kalogeros-Chattan was retiring as Community Services Department (CSD) director. Charlie has served our community in several important roles over the years, and she will be missed. Her replacement will be Brian Brogan, who comes to us from Morenci, Arizona, where he served as the Community Services Director for the past four years.

Lynn Jones

Board of Public Utilities

At the January 18th Board of Public Utilities meeting Pace Global presented draft energy generation portfolios to be analyzed in an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for Los Alamos County. Pace Global was awarded a contract back in October to analyze portfolios with a mix of various electric generation resources (nuclear, solar, etc.) that the County could pursue to meet a goal to be carbon neutral by 2040. The final IRP is designed to assist the BPU and County Council in evaluating important energy generation decisions moving forward. Eleven

portfolio options were presented and discussed. Pace Global's next steps include an in-depth assessment of the financial impact and analysis of risk. Portfolios will then be prioritized as a best fit based on the commercial reality, balance of objectives, and perspective of acceptable risk. No action was taken at the January meeting. A final IRP is anticipated in April/May 2017.

Results from an informal survey conducted by the Department of Public Utilities to gauge community interest in a Community Solar Garden were shared with the Board. Approximately 170 citizens indicated that they would be interested in partaking in a community solar garden subscribing up to 300 kilowatts of capacity. It is anticipated that expanding utility scale solar generation will be a component in the "best fit" generation portfolios currently being assessed by Pace Global. If the DPU is directed to move forward with a request for proposals to add additional local solar generation, DPU will request that a community solar garden be included to determine feasibility.

Julie Williams-Hill

February 7: School Board and UNM-LA Advisory Board Election

The ballot for the election of school board members for Districts 1 and 2, both in White Rock, and for UNM-LA Advisory Board members is available through February 3 for early voting Monday through Friday at the County Clerk's Office. The official election day is Tuesday, February 7. On that day voters may cast their ballots at the Municipal Building in Los Alamos or the White Rock Library. Here is the list of candidates:

The School Board Candidates are

District 1: Ellen Ben-Naim, Jim Hall

District 2: Darryl Sugar, Stephen Boerigter

(Both districts are in White Rock.)

The UNMLA Advisory Board Candidates are:

Position 1: Michael Redondo, David Sutton

Position 2: Michelle Hall

Position 5: James Robinson, Sheila Schiferl

(All County residents can vote for all positions.)

Check These Items Before Renewing Your Driver's License

The new law on drivers' licenses is quite complex. If you go to the Web site www.mvd.newmexico.gov you will find a list of the 4 documents required for a Real ID license (the one that meets federal regulations for boarding planes, etc.).

The first document establishes your "Proof of Identification Number." For most people, your social security card will work, but if you lack that and lack a pay stub or W-2 form, be aware that, as one person found out, a Medicare card does NOT work.

The second document is "Proof of Identity and Age" and is essentially a passport or birth certificate.

The third and fourth documents are ones that establish "Proof of NM Residency"—a wide variety of things like bank statements, insurance bills, utility bills. But I discovered that many of my family documents (like our utility bill and some credit cards) listed ONLY my husband's name, and our bank account is just a family trust without our individual names.

The minimum age for yearly renewal at no charge has been changed to 79.

For anyone not needing a Real ID, it's possible to obtain a Driver Authorization Card. That has a different list of requirements, but they're not so onerous.

We appreciate comments from those of you who have run this gauntlet! Let us know if you have further information.

Becky Shankland



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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