



UPDATE

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

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

Website: www.lwvlosalamos.org

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CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING April 29, 2014 at Mesa Public Library

Calendar

- April 24 Board Meeting, Mesa Public Library, noon
- April 29 **Annual Meeting:** Silent Auction, Lunch with a Leader: Kim Gabaldon, LWVLA annual business meeting, Mesa Public Library, 11:00-2:30
- May 1 Thank You Note Party, location tbd, 7-8:30
- May 14 Candidates' Forum, Fuller Lodge, 7 p.m. (6:30 for refreshments)
- May 20 Lunch with a Leader, Chris Chandler, Mesa Public Library, 11:45
- May 22 Board Meeting, Mesa Public Library, noon

Lunch with a Leader April 29: Kim Gabaldon

April's Lunch with a Leader will be a bit different from our usual affair. First of all, it will NOT be on the third Tuesday, but it will be on the 4th Tuesday, April 29, at Mesa Library. Secondly, it will be longer to accommodate our Annual Meeting. We will begin at 11am with a display of our silent auction items. Lunch will begin at 11:45. You will receive information to order lunch, if you choose, in April. Social Services Manager Kim Gabaldon will be our speaker. Her topics will include the progress the County has made toward consolidating social services, a review of the behavioral health issues since NM outsourced them to Arizona, and an update of how "Obamacare" has changed the health care for citizens. After she concludes, around 1p.m., we will begin our annual meeting, which will include approval of a new Board. The entire meeting will end by 2:30.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

President's Message

April is always a busy month in Los Alamos. This year, rather than trying to identify a Saturday with no conflicts, we will combine the Annual Meeting with Lunch with a Leader at Mesa Library on April 29. As Karyl Ann wrote, we will gather at 11:00 to begin the silent auction and socialize. Lunch with a Leader will begin at 11:45, followed by our annual business meeting. At that time we will plan the program for the following year, approve the budget, and elect a new board. Please mark your calendars!

The board would like to thank our newest member, Julie Williams-Hill, for agreeing to serve as secretary for next year. We are also grateful to Barbara Lemmick for volunteering to replace Kathy Campbell as webmaster, and Michele Poling, who will assist Lynn with voter services during the busy campaign season. There are still some empty slots on the slate if anyone else would like to step up!

There are several contested positions during the primary elections. We will hold a candidates' forum at Fuller Lodge on May 14 to hear the five Democratic candidates for County Council, the two Republican candidates for House of Representatives, District 43, and the two Democratic candidates for the 3rd Congressional District seat. We will send out a notice when arrangements are complete.

Barbara Calef

Agenda for Annual Meeting on April 29

11:00 Silent Auction

11:45 Lunch and Speaker (Kim Gabaldon)

12:55 Silent Auction Concludes

1:00 Business Meeting Begins

Minutes of the 2013 Meeting

(see May 2013 Update)

Membership Report

Treasurer's Report

Land Use Committee Report

Adoption of Local Program

Adoption of the 2014 Budget

Election of Officers and Directors

Please bring this newsletter to the annual meeting! And bring your checkbook.

Dues for FY 2014-2015, which begins May 1, will be accepted beginning April 1. Please fill out the membership form on the back of this newsletter. Remember that if you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to our Education Fund, you must write a separate check! New members who joined after September 30, 2013 are paid up until April 2015.

Silent Auction

Please plan to participate in this year's Silent Auction during our Annual Meeting. Over the years this activity has raised a significant amount of money for our local programs.

All kinds of contributions are welcome, including artwork, jewelry, books, plants... The sole criteria are that the items should be in good condition and something you'd be delighted to take home yourself. You may set a reserve (minimum) price if you wish. Unsold items will be returned to the donors. Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions at

[bfcaleg\(AT\)gmail\(DOT\)com](mailto:bfcaleg(AT)gmail(DOT)com) or 662-3825. If you would like to make donations, but aren't able to attend the meeting, please let me know and I'll arrange a pick-up.

Donated items will be on display from 11 a.m. in the library meeting room. Bidding begins at that time and will continue until 1 p.m., when the winning bids will be announced.

Proposed BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014-15

Officers

President: Barbara Calef

1st VP: *not filled*

2nd VP: Rebecca Shankland

Treasurer: Rosmarie Frederickson

Secretary: Julie Williams-Hill

Directors

Arrangements: Kathy Taylor

Lunch with a Leader: Karyl Ann Armbruster

Membership: *not filled*

Voter Services: Lynn Jones

Michele Poling, assistant

Off Board Directors

Fundraising: *not filled*

Publicity: Jody Benson

Webmaster: Barbara Lemmick

Observer Corps: Lynn Jones

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Taylor

Nominating Committee: Carroll Thomas,

Michael McKay

Education Study

During the business meeting on April 29 we will discuss our program for the next year. In League jargon program includes studies, our positions, and issues on which we wish to lobby. At the March board meeting we voted to recommend a new education study, suggested by Susan O'Leary. The topic is "How to better integrate community priorities into decisions made by the School Board and School District Administration".

Thank You Note Party

League members stuffed envelopes during the fund drive party on March 11. Now the responses are rolling in. We will gather again at 7 p.m. on May 1 to write thank you notes to the donors. Please plan to come for another relaxing evening with friends. The location will be announced shortly.

May Lunch with a Leader

On May 20 (back to the third Tuesday), Probate Judge and League member Christine Chandler will be our speaker. She will be talking about her experience working at the Roundhouse during the recent legislative session, including a discussion of important bills that passed and bills that failed.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

Report of March LWL: Richard Sayre

Richard Sayre, Director of the Biofuels Project at the New Mexico Consortium, explained that genetic engineering offers both benefits and risks; the problem is how to address and to gauge them. The technology for genetic engineering has been in use since the 1980s, and genetically modified (GM) crops were introduced in the US in 1996. Globally, over 445 million acres of farmland are now planted with GM crops in 28 countries, with additional countries conducting field trials. Over the last couple of years the acreage of GM crops in developing countries has surpassed that of industrial countries.

Why use genetic engineering to produce crops? It can lower the cost of producing a crop by 20-30% a year because the land does not require frequent plowing to keep down the weeds or frequent application of broad spectrum pesticides. No-till agriculture saves energy, reducing CO₂ emissions and soil erosion. At present, the most widely utilized modifications are herbicide tolerance, insect resistance, or a combination of the two. 81% of the world production of soy is genetically engineered to be resistant to glyphosate, commonly called Roundup. Sayre said that glyphosate is the safest herbicide ever developed.

35% of all maize (corn) in production and 81% of the cotton is genetically modified with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), which is toxic to lepidopteran insects such as moths and butterflies. Rachel Carson recommended the use of the Bt toxin because it is very targeted. It doesn't kill aphids or bees, has no impact on humans, and is effective only on insects with alkaline stomachs. Introduction of crops with the Bt toxin allows farmers to use substantially less pesticide to preserve the harvest from corn borers or bollworms.

Genetic engineering makes it possible to transfer a single gene, whereas in traditional breeding, the desired trait may be accompanied by unwanted genes. Also, the widespread use of a

few recombinant inbred lines in traditional selective breeding reduces genetic diversity, which can lead to devastating crop loss. Contrary to popular belief, the reduction of the monarch butterfly population is not due to the prevalence of GM corn, but rather to the destruction of milkweed by farmers. Of course, there are significant risks with genetic engineering that must be confronted. For instance, to avoid wiping out the insects susceptible to the Bt toxin, farmers are required to plant 10% of their fields with traditional seed. Nevertheless, resistance is starting to show up among the insects and the weeds. "Stacking" or using a combination of introduced genes makes the evolution of resistance more difficult, but scientists must also modify the toxin to defeat resistance. Because the GE technology is very expensive, costing as much as \$20 million to get a single trait through the process, a few producers have monopolized the market and the price of seed is high.

To assure that the crops are safe, the regulatory process is very rigorous. Only after extensive analysis and field trials overseen by the FDA, USDA, and the EPA are genetically modified organisms approved for production. Genetic engineering promises to alleviate hunger and malnutrition, which kill over a million children a year and impair many more. With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Sayre has been leading a project in Africa to create GM cassava. Cassava is a new world plant, but has become the most widely grown food in Africa. It provides calories, but little else. Sayre and his team of scientists have been able to increase the levels of vitamins A and E, iron, zinc, and the protein content. They also were able to extend the shelf life from 48 hours to two weeks and to reduce the cyanogens, which must be processed in order for the cassava to be safe to eat.

40-60% of the developing world's children suffer impaired intellectual and physical development due to malnutrition. Genetic engineering promises to revolutionize agriculture and improve their lives.

Barbara Calef

Observer Corps Report – March 2014

At the February 21st County Council meeting, the Arts in Public Places board announced that there will soon be two Secundino Sandoval paintings hanging in niches on the first floor of the Municipal Building. In addition, the ceramic mural that was in the old Council Chambers will be moved to the new Council Chambers with an additional two panels to be done by the original artist, Sam Tubiolo. We should all make a point of checking this out in a few months – it will be a good excuse to look over the new Municipal Building if you haven't already done so.

At the March 25th County Council meeting in White Rock, Anne Laurent, our Community & Economic Development Director, and Peter Wren, an architect with RMKM, presented the conceptual design for the White Rock Branch Library and Youth Activity Center. The library will be built on the southwest corner of NM 4 and Sherwood Boulevard. The design was enthusiastically supported by all residents that have been participating in the process, and Council accepted the design with an easy 7 to 0 vote.

Also at this meeting, Council heard petitioners present a resolution that supports banning inhumane animal trapping in Los Alamos County. This trapping presents a danger to animals, children, and adults hiking along our trail system. The Council agreed with the petitioners, and did even more than requested. Council asked the county legal staff to

1. draft a resolution in keeping with the petitioners' request that would also meet County needs,
2. draft an ordinance that would prohibit trapping on Los Alamos County lands under County control (including along the Red Dot and Blue Dot trails where trapping is currently allowed), and
3. to meet with the U.S. Forest Service and the N.M. Game and Fish in an effort to get this kind of trapping prohibited on all

Forest Service land within Los Alamos County.

The resolution will be brought before Council at the April 29th County Council meeting. This is quick action on the part of the council to respond to a public safety issue.

Lynn Jones

LWVLA POSITIONS

SUSTAINABILITY (Adopted 1995; Revised 1997, 2004, 2008)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos endorses the concept of a sustainable society as a preamble for all of its current and new positions. A sustainable society may be defined as one in which social and economic justice prevail and that preserves and respects its interdependence with the natural world. It is one that satisfies its own needs without jeopardizing the prospects of future generations. It is a society that protects nature. Communities everywhere would be healthy, safe, caring, and productive places where individuals could be assured of enough pure water, clean air, fertile soil, and sufficient sources of renewable energy to provide for their physical needs. Scarce resources would be equitably distributed so that conflicts over them would be minimized. Each individual would live in dignity with a livable wage. And civil discourse would show that individuals respect one another.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (Adopted 1965; Revised 1991, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2013)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos believes that public transportation is an essential element of a sustainable society in so far as it conserves natural resources and decreases pollution. Public transportation is also important economically and socially as an alternative to the current norm of one commuter per car. Public transportation can benefit all citizens including workers, students, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Public transportation should be affordable, convenient and reliable. The County should extend the existing County system and continue to subsidize and support the expansion of the regional system.

In order to sustain clean air and healthy ways of living, an emphasis should be placed on developing infrastructure to encourage pedestrians and cyclists. Land use decisions should support this emphasis by promoting higher density mixed-use development

ENVIRONMENT (Adopted 2012)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos believes that our natural environment is integral to our community's unique sense of place and to our well-being and prosperity.

- We support protection of this environment, including the canyons and other open space, vistas, wildlife habitat, and dark skies.
- We support the use of natural processes to provide services such as storm water management in the built environment for the sake of healthy ecosystems and community livability.

Further Guidelines

The LWVLA supports final review, adoption and implementation of the current draft Open Space Plan, which develops a system of designated open space to protect scenic vistas and memorable landscapes; recreational, natural and cultural resources; and significant wildlife corridors and habitats.

- We support adoption of a Rendija Canyon master plan that reserves the transfer land for recreational uses only.
- We support adoption of a storm water management plan that employs green infrastructure strategies, such as infiltration planters, vegetated swales, tree boxes, and rain gardens.
- We support adding green spaces in the downtown with landscaped road edges, medians, parking lots, and pocket parks.
- We support limiting the use of herbicides in open space areas, as well as along roadsides where mowing and planting native grasses can be as effective.
- We support a policy of zero increase in run-off beyond the natural rate for commercial and private property.

- We support implementation of all goals in the Protect the Environment section of the LAC Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Council in 2005.

Execution of the actions suggested in Further Guidelines will improve the quality of our air and water

SUSTAINABLE WATER (Adopted 2009; Revised 2012)

The 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-* 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.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING (Adopted 1996; Revised 2003, 2008)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos supports the development and rehabilitation of affordable housing in the county. LWV Los Alamos believes that affordable housing units should be integrated into neighborhoods throughout Los Alamos County. New developments should have a mix of market-rate and affordable units.

We acknowledge that some type of subsidy by the county is required to achieve affordable prices.

Effective methods to keep these units affordable when they are resold must be in place if we are to retain a stock of affordable housing. For instance, land provided as a subsidy could be retained in a trust.

FULLER LODGE (Adopted 1992, Revised 2004)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos believes that Fuller Lodge should be used primarily for civic and cultural activities. Activities not open to the general public should be charged at a rate comparable to that charged by local businesses for equivalent space. Activities open to the general public should be charged at a lower rate.

The County should continue to be responsible for the maintenance, restoration, and protection of the Lodge.

MEDICALLY INDIGENT FUND (Adopted 1988; Revised 2004, 2008)

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos supports the County ordinance establishing the Indigent Health Care Fund. Desirable features of such an ordinance include:

1. A limit for the amount of reimbursement.
2. Provisions for changes in this limit because of changing medical costs or demands on the fund.
3. Possible reimbursement of costs beyond hospital and ambulance services.
4. Consideration of for-profit health care providers, but with non-profit facilities given first consideration.

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION: RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS

(adopted Oct. 31, 2013)

LWVLA supports the development of residential neighborhoods that are sustainable and livable. To achieve those goals, we believe that new and redeveloped neighborhoods should be designed to minimize sprawl and impact on the natural environment. Neighborhoods should support a diverse population with inviting streets and public spaces as well as access to public transportation.

Further Guidelines:

1. Where to build (efficient use of land that minimizes sprawl)

- Neighborhoods near the downtown should be compact.
- New development should not consume or fragment important natural habitats or wildlife corridors; it should be avoided on steep slopes or in canyons.
- Redevelopment of “brownfields” and infill are preferred over new development in pristine landscapes. However, existing small neighborhood parks should be maintained or enhanced to reflect the unique character of the neighborhood.
- Neighborhoods should be situated along available public transit lines and within easy access of daily activities.

2. What to build (neighborhood pattern/design)

- Cluster homes to make transit more viable and to create walkable neighborhoods.
- Design streets and pathways for safe and pleasant walking/biking within neighborhoods.
- Include a range of housing types/sizes to support diverse neighborhood population; include a mix of affordable housing within each neighborhood.
- Encourage ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) designs in individual homes to accommodate all ages and abilities.

- Encourage the preservation of the positive character/architecture unique to each neighborhood.
- The developer should include quality parks, trails, and public spaces within each neighborhood; the option of allowing payment in lieu of parks provision should be restricted.

3. How to build (how to manage environmental impacts)

- Reduce storm water runoff and eliminate pollution sources.
- Emphasize energy and water efficiency of streets and buildings; plan orientation of buildings to optimize solar gain.
- Reuse older buildings to reduce energy and resource use as appropriate.
- Encourage building materials that support high indoor air quality and are sourced sustainably.
- Encourage appropriate landscaping based on native and xeric plants; create a streetscape with shade trees appropriate for our climate.
- Minimize light pollution.

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos				
	Adopted FY14 Budget		Proposed FY15 Budget	
	General	Ed Fund	General	Ed Fund
EXPENSE				
A. Administration				
1. President's Funds	\$40.00		\$40.00	
2. Secretary	\$0.00		\$0.00	
3. Treasurer	\$30.00		\$30.00	
4. Board tools	\$25.00		\$25.00	
5. Communications				
a. Newsletter	\$100.00		\$100.00	
b. Webpage	\$200.00		\$200.00	
6. Other Administrative	\$150.00		\$150.00	
Total Administration	\$545.00	\$0.00	\$545.00	\$0.00
B. Per Member Payment (PMP)				
1. State	\$861.00		\$793.00	
2. National	\$1,906.50		\$1,891.00	
Total PMP	\$2,767.50		\$2,684.00	
C. Committees				
1. Fundraising	\$100.00		\$100.00	
2. Membership	\$100.00		\$100.00	
3. Lunch with a Leader	\$150.00		\$150.00	
4. Arrangements	\$50.00		\$50.00	
Total Committees	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
D. Position Support				
1. National	\$20.00		\$20.00	
2. State	\$20.00		\$20.00	
3. Local	\$20.00		\$20.00	
Total Position Support	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$0.00
E. Convention, Council, & other travel				
1. National Convention	\$350.00		\$1,325.00	
2. State Council	\$50.00		\$70.00	
3. State Convention	\$1,000.00		\$200.00	
4. LWVLA Annual Meeting	\$100.00		\$225.00	
Total Travel	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,820.00	\$0.00
F. Program				
1. Voters' Services	\$100.00	\$500.00	\$100.00	\$3,200.00
2. Sustainability	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
3. Local Government	\$0.00		\$200.00	
4. Land Use	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$100.00	\$300.00
5. Citizens United	\$150.00		\$150.00	
6. Other Program	\$150.00		\$150.00	
	\$550.00	\$1,100.00	\$700.00	\$3,800.00
G. Other				

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos				
	Adopted FY14 Budget		Proposed FY15 Budget	
	General	Ed Fund	General	Ed Fund
1. Ed Fund pass-through	\$0.00		\$0.00	(\$600.00)
2. Memorials	\$0.00		\$0.00	
3. LWVNM state convention	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Total Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$600.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,822.50	\$1,100.00	\$6,209.00	\$3,200.00
INCOME				
A. Dues				
1. Regular	\$990.00		\$585.00	
2. Sustaining	\$1,275.00		\$2,025.00	
3. Household	\$390.00		\$910.00	
4. Household Sustaining	\$855.00		\$1,330.00	
Total Dues	\$3,510.00	\$0.00	\$4,850.00	\$0.00
B. Contributions				
1. Members	\$300.00	\$600.00	\$300.00	\$600.00
2. Non-members	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
3. Businesses		\$500.00		\$500.00
Total Contributions	\$800.00	\$2,100.00	\$800.00	\$2,100.00
C. Miscellaneous				
1. Ed Fund Reimbursement	\$1,441.50		\$1,441.50	\$2,700.00
2. LWVNM convention				
3. Interest	\$11.00		\$1.00	
4. Forum partners	\$60.00		\$60.00	
Total Miscellaneous	\$1,512.50	\$0.00	\$1,502.50	\$2,700.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,822.50	\$2,100.00	\$7,152.50	\$4,800.00
Income - Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$943.50	\$1,600.00



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.

IN THIS ISSUE	Page
Call to Annual Meeting	1
Calendar	1
Lunch with a Leader April 29: Kim Gabaldon	1
President's Message	2
Agenda for Annual Meeting	2
Silent Auction	3
Proposed Board of Directors 2014-15	3
Education Study	3
Thank You Note Party	3
May Lunch with a Leader	3
Report of March LWL: Richard Sayre	4
Observer Corps Report – March 2014	5
LWVLA Positions	5
Proposed Budget FY15	9
Membership Form	11