



UPDATE

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

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

Website: www.lwvlosalamos.org

Volume 66, Number 1
May 2013

President: Barbara Calef [bfcalef\(AT\)yahoo\(DOT\)com](mailto:bfcalef(AT)yahoo(DOT)com)
NNnNewsletter Editor: Kathy Taylor [kathytaylor1000\(AT\)msn\(DOT\)com](mailto:kathytaylor1000(AT)msn(DOT)com)

Calendar

- June 4 Land Use and Transportation Study Committee, Mesa Public Library, noon
- June 6 Thank you note party, 926 Circle Drive, 7-8:30 p.m.
- June 13 Lunch with a Leader, Stephanie Garcia Richard, Mesa Public Library, 11:40 a.m.
- June 27 Board Meeting, Mesa Public Library, noon
- July 11 Lunch with a Leader, Mesa Public Library, 11:40 a.m.

Lunch with a Leader, June 13: State Representative Stephanie Garcia Richard

The next League of Women Voters Lunch with a Leader will be on Thursday June 13. Our leader will be Stephanie Garcia Richard, Representative for District 43, which includes Los Alamos, and parts of Sandoval, Rio Arriba and Santa Fe Counties. Stephanie is a native born New Mexican who grew up in Silver City, attended Columbia as a pre-med student but graduated with a degree in political science.

Besides being active in politics, she has taught in several countries, in several states, and in both public and private schools. Currently she is teaching 3rd grade in Pojoaque as well as being our representative. Stephanie lives in White Rock with her husband and two daughters.

Stephanie will discuss her exciting year as a freshman representative, her work on the House Appropriations and Education committees, the bills she wants to pursue next year, and a general overview of the 60 day session.

If you would like to order a lunch, please contact Karyl Ann Armbruster at 661-6605 or [kaskacayman\(AT\)gmail\(DOT\)com](mailto:kaskacayman(AT)gmail(DOT)com) for the extensive list of options from the Co-op. The cost of all lunches is just \$10. You can bring your own lunch or order one in advance; there will not be other food available. Please place your food order by Tuesday, June 11 by 7PM.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

San Juan Chama Project

On April 25 Ilse Bleck, Mark Jones, Becky Shankland and I met with Jack Richardson to get an update about the plans of the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) for developing the County's San Juan Chama water rights and to pose some questions about the project. The DPU still maintains that we are currently drawing only from the surface of our aquifer, a sustainable yield situation, not mining. The recharge is significantly larger than our withdrawals. However, it would be advisable to rest some of the wells and two of them need to be replaced.

In response to a question about the chances that the flow will be reduced due to drought, Richardson reiterated that the County should lock in the 1200 afy even if we can only draw 70%, because that amount of water will still increase our portfolio by 22%.

Richardson also said that the aquifer should not directly impact Santa Fe's Buckman wellfield; so the wells should not be protested by Santa Fe. We will be pumping water that would otherwise be flowing into the Rio Grande.

Regarding plans for the wells, Richardson said that they were being sited to avoid impacting the springs in White Rock Canyon. A 1½ acre site was required for drilling, but after completion, a much smaller footprint would be needed. He was seeking advice on how to make the well or wells as quiet as possible and planned to make the access roads and buildings aesthetically pleasing.

Before the drilling can begin, Council must exempt the three sites from the Open Space Ordinance.

On May 23 the DPU organized a tour and public meeting in White Rock. The group of about 50 residents was taken by bus to see Well Site #3 off Potrillo Drive in Pajarito Acres and Site #2 at the end of Kimberly. The plan is to begin by drilling at Site #3. If production is adequate, the other two sites will not be drilled. The group was then driven to a well at the corner of the truck route and State Route 4. With the door of

the pumphouse open, it was very noisy, but the noise diminished when the door was closed and we were told that no effort had been made to block the sound during construction. The last stop was at a well just off 502 in Pueblo Canyon. The pump at that location was submersible and was virtually silent. Such a pump is much more expensive and not as durable, but it is being considered in view of the strong objections raised by White Rock residents.

Following the tour the DPU Board held a meeting with engineers and a geologist from CDM and personnel from the DPU present to answer questions. The well at Site #3 will be 1200 feet deep, of which the first 600 feet will be basalt. The plan to drill around the clock has been altered in response to concerns about the noise. Instead it will be limited to 12 hours a day while drilling through the basalt. In the looser sediment lower down it will not be feasible to stop. After the well is tested and been approved for development, an environmental review will be conducted before final construction begins. An archaeological survey has already occurred to avoid impacts to cultural sites.

Report of May 9 LWL: JJAB Programs

JJAB (Juvenile Justice Advisory Board) founder Judge Alan Kirk and the Coordinators, Ellen Ben-Naim and Sharon Marinuzzi, were League guests at the May Lunch with a Leader. Kirk began by explaining the origin of JJAB eight years ago. When Los Alamos lost its probation officer, Los Alamos kids had to go to Santa Fe. The First Judicial District includes Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Rio Arriba--Los Alamos kids tended to be dismissed with a wave of the hand by comparison with other kids with more serious criminal charges. Judge Barbara Vigil suggested that local boards be set up for local kids and Kirk said he would chair a Los Alamos board. (There are now 21 such boards in NM, partially funded by state government.)

The JJAB has a board with leaders from other groups, who share information with the community at large. The board meets every third Wednesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Pueblo Cliffs, and the public is welcome.

Services and Programs of JJAB

These programs were established because the first available grants required that kids be arrested before receiving services—JJAB wanted instead to have diversion or intervention programs. They put together a continuum of services and hired two part-time coordinators under a non-profit 501 (c) (3) structure. The programs are developed within the community and are taken to the kids, rather than requiring the kids to come to them. The schools have welcomed these programs, but of course cannot afford to fund them.

- Los Alamos Youth Leadership Program: run through the Family YMCA. Encourages kids to participate in community goals—learn the political process including having to work hard and wait for results (e.g., proposing the Teen Center).
- Youth Food Project: funded by a grant from State Farm to teach kids the value of nutrition and food-growing. Garden on North Mesa; directed by Sylvan Argo from the Y.
- Fifth Quarter: after-sports events at Teen Center or locations like the Reel Deal.
- Truancy Program: identify and monitor at-risk kids.
- Middle-school Diversity Program: help integrate the mixture of Los Alamos elementary schools and valley kids coming to the school each year.
- Saturday School: Tutoring and academic support for at-risk high school kids to get help with credits; 75-100 kids have been helped to graduate.
- Early Intervention: consists of rolling programs (such as Life Skills) so that kids can join immediately when needed.
- Many other programs such as Mindfulness Classes, Restorative Justice,

Family Strengths programs, Assets in Action, help for kids who come to school without food or clothing or a secure home.

- Youth Resource Advocate: case manager for at-risk kids (200 kids at LAHS have been identified as at-risk through the truancy intervention program)

Teen Center History

After starting with a location on Lavy Lane, then one in Central Park Square, the current plan is to remodel the Community Building as a Teen Center. Besides having good space, it makes partnering with groups like the Extension Office, Forest Service (for trails), PAC-8, Senior Center (for tutoring), UNM-LA, Life Skills classes (Teambuilders), Technical Boot Camp, training programs for positions like food service and preparation. The hope is to have the Teen Center up and running in this new location by sometime in 2014.

Michael Sharp's Talk at the Annual Meeting

Michael Sharp, Vice President at Research & Polling, has a Master's in Geography from the University of Arizona and a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from New Mexico State University. He began his career with an internship at Research and Polling, working on the 1990 census, and has now worked on three census cycles.

Every ten years every person in the country is supposed to be counted, including babies, foreigners and prisoners. It takes a year to process the data so that redistricting can begin. There are four mandated principles for re-districting.

1. Equal population, to achieve the promise of one person, one vote: Congressional districts must be as equal as possible. State house and senate districts must be "substantially equal" defined as + or - 5% of the ideal.
2. Minority voting rights, to give minority groups the opportunity to elect a member of their group to office (although race must not be the only criterion in creating a district)
3. Compactness, which refers to shape, not size
4. Contiguity, meaning the district must be one distinct unit

A fifth principle, maintaining communities of interest, is not so easy to define. The term can refer to the core of existing districts, protection of incumbents, political subdivisions, neighborhoods, cultural or historic traditions or geographic boundaries. Still another consideration is competitiveness, the principle that the political parties should be evenly balanced so that a candidate from either party can win.

Once the census data has been processed, many plans are created, public meetings are called to discuss them, input is gathered from multiple sources, and a special session of the Legislature is called to create the new boundaries for each

set of offices. Finally, the Governor must sign the plans.

The 2010 census revealed that Sandoval County had grown by 46.3% with the influx of residents to Rio Rancho. Lea County grew by 16.6% due to the oil and gas activity. New Mexico grew by 13%.

Sharp made some brief comments regarding independent redistricting commissions, which take the process away from the legislature. Typically such commissions are composed of citizens who have been appointed, not elected. The forms vary among the states that have adopted this process, but there is always a political component.

Barbara Calef

Observer Corps Report – May 2013

At the April 30th meeting of the County Council, the county staff presented suggested changes to the county's Health Care Assistance Program (HCAP). This is the program that helps support health care for the needy in our community, using funds from the county's Indigent Health Care Fund. Because of reduced income (19%) from Gross Receipts Taxes (GRT) and the large increase in claims (35%), the county's Indigent Health Care Fund can no longer support the level of service that was set after 2004 when GRT was high. The Indigent Health Care Fund is funded by a 1/8 GRT increment, 50% of which goes directly to the state for Medicaid, 25% to the Sole Community Hospital Providers (Los Alamos Medical Center and Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center), 15% to HCAP, and 8 – 10% to administrative costs. Several services are being dropped from the health care policy, including dental, vision and nursing home care, plus a few other smaller services. Eligibility is also being dropped back to 2004 levels, causing an elimination of approximately 20% of the current 300 patients; and lifetime limits are lower.

There are other sources of help for the indigent population that staff is anticipating will help counter this reduction in services, including the hospital emergency services and the Public Health offices, which do a lot of prenatal and child care. Although the pertinent Affordable Health Care Act provisions will not take effect until January, it is expected that they will address the needs of many in the indigent population. The County Council does have the option of assessing an additional 1/16 GRT to increase available funds for the Indigent Fund. The council is not currently considering this, but they are concerned about the effect of these cutbacks, especially on preventive care, prenatal care, and children's health. The County Council did vote to accept the staff's suggestions for HCAP policy changes.

Lynn Jones

Land Use and Transportation Meeting

The next meeting will be held at noon on Tuesday, June 4 in the upstairs meeting room of Mesa Public Library. Based on the group's past discussions regarding livable neighborhoods, questions will be developed that can then be used to formulate the Los Alamos League's position on sustainable neighborhoods. This will be part of our League's larger Land Use and Transportation position.

Please join us!

Brief Report on LWVNM Convention

The state League convention was shorter this year, beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday instead of in the morning. This was no problem for members of the state board, but for delegates unfamiliar with the issues, speed reading skills were essential. The four delegates representing Los Alamos were Barbara Calef, Becky Shankland, Naishing Key, and Lee Lockie (the new Director of Natural Resources for LWVNM). The Fredericksons had planned to

participate, but had to cancel for medical reasons. Lynn Jones attended as a member of the state board.

Following a presentation about the current immigration bill by Jake Rollow, a field representative from Senator Heinrich's office, and welcoming speeches by Las Cruces officials, we heard words of encouragement from Susan Wilson, the LWVUS liaison. Wilson will return to New Mexico in July to participate in a training program designed to increase membership and develop leaders in the League.

In addition to the committee reports, amendments to the bylaws were discussed and voted and proposed studies and concurrences were introduced. The following morning the convention adopted the proposed concurrences to two Las Cruces positions, one on affordable housing and one on mental health services. Also adopted were changes to the PRC and redistricting positions. The Alcohol study was extended and should be completed within a year. The land use study was also extended for two years. The CNM (Albuquerque) League proposed an update of the judiciary position and a new study of mental health services. Both proposals were adopted.

Barbara Calef

Fund Drive Part 2: Thank You Note Party

All League members are invited to gather at Janie O'Rourke's home (926 Circle Dr.) from 7 to 8:30 on Thursday, June 6 to write brief thank you notes to non-member donors who responded to the March fund drive. Join us for refreshments and conversation!

Annual Meeting Minutes

**League of Women Voters of Los Alamos
Minutes of Annual Meeting**

Saturday, April 27, 2013, 10 a.m.

**Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Fellowship Hall**

2390 North Road, Los Alamos, NM 87544

Call to Order

President Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Members Attending

Karyl Ann Armbruster, Elizabeth Bennett, Ann Beyer, Barbara Calef, Chris Chandler, Betsy Comly, Jill Forman, Michael McKay, Lynn Jones, Mark Jones, Becky Shankland, Jane Sherwood, Kathy Taylor. A quorum was present, 15% of the membership.

Approval of 2012 Minutes

The minutes were filed as read and approved. Kathy Taylor and Liz Bennett volunteered to read the 2013 minutes for accuracy.

Membership Report

Barbara reported for Kyle Wheeler that we have 70 paid-up members at present. Membership checks and forms are now welcome for 2013-14.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy Taylor gave the following report for the Treasurer, Rosmarie Frederickson:

This was a busy year with a national election, a heavily contested Senate race, council elections, and charter amendment elections. It was, therefore, also a more expensive year. To educate voters we organized three forums. The expenses were \$325 for room rentals, \$474 for ads advertising the forums, and \$300 to tape the forums. The League helped publish a Voters Guide. The expenses were \$2376.78 to get it printed and posted on line. We were able to raise \$1900 from local businesses, and we thank them for their support. The League also helped sponsor an ad for \$350.00 in the Santa Fe New Mexican to advertise the forum in Santa Fe featuring the state's congressional candidates.

Other League expenses are the Per Member Payment (PMP) for both state and national assessment, which this year came to \$3,052.50, and our very popular program "Lunch with a Leader," on which we have spent \$110.00 so far. Our total expenses through the end of March were \$8701.00. We have had income through the end of March of contributions and dues of \$4667.00, plus the \$1900.00 from local merchants.

Barbara added information about the Fund Drive: the letter sent on March 25 to non-members has raised \$570 for the general fund and \$650 for the Ed Fund so far. The business fund drive effort raised \$1900 thanks in large part to Janet Hall. We ask businesses for contributions only in election years.

The current account balances are \$6159 in checking, \$2142 in savings, and \$6990 in Ed Fund.

Voter Service

Lynn Jones reported on publication of the Voters Key for NM and handed out copies.

This year we published a Voters Guide under Lynn's direction. She had assistance from Becky Shankland, Barbara Calef, JJ Maier, and Maryjane Giesler (from AAUW), and the Los Alamos Monitor was helpful.

We had one pre-primary forum, three general election forums, and a forum for the LAPS bond election. We did some voter registration at the high school and in front of Ruby K's.

Observer Corps

Lynn Jones reported that she attends most meetings in person or electronically; she also reads the minutes for the White Rock work sessions. She estimates that she spends 7-10 hours a month on this.

She updated us on the new Charter Review Committee that is examining the relationship between the County and DPU. They have met three times, every other Monday, and will continue these meetings until September, at which time they will submit a report to the County Council. The five committee members are Kirk Christensen, Susan O'Leary, Edward

Birnbaum, Steven Girrens (County Councilor), and David Powell (DPU Board member).

Lunch with a Leader

Karyl Ann Armbruster reported that we've been holding 10 meetings a year (all but August and December). She will try to change the day back to Tuesdays because of conflict with parking for the Farmers Market on Thursdays. First choice will be second Tuesdays at the library, then first or third Tuesdays, with Thursdays as a last resort. Co-op food works well, but it is a lot of work to organize (ordering, payment, pick-up, collecting money, washing of cups, recycling some materials). This has become a well-attended signature event for our League.

Land Use and Transportation Study

Barbara reported for Janie O'Rourke that the study is ongoing after a hiatus following Janie's father's death. Meetings to discuss planning for residential neighborhoods are usually first Tuesdays, but the next meeting will be May 14.

Issues of Concern

Reconstruction of 502. Janie alerted us to meetings, but we did not lobby as a League since we have no relevant position.

Storm Water Management. Barbara and Janie met in 2012 with Gary Leikness, director of the county planning department, to advocate for our new position on open space, especially concerning developing and passing a storm water management ordinance. The county departments were being reorganized and we need to follow up on that issue.

Water Study

At the last annual meeting, Jody Benson suggested working with the Sierra Club on natural resource issues. We co-sponsored a talk by Jack Richardson, the engineer in charge of the San Juan Chama water project, who said that the water is needed because current water wells are aging and climate change threatens to continue our drought conditions. The previous access plan was very destructive to WR Canyon; the new plan is less invasive but involves drilling three wells on the edge of White Rock Canyon in

open space. Information about the project is on a county Open Forum for public comments and questions:

<http://www.peakdemocracy.com/1254>.

Richardson will speak to the Sierra Club June 5 and we may co-sponsor.

Sustainability: San Juan Generating Station

Barbara and some other LWVNM board members met with PRC Commissioner Doug Howe, energy analyst Dan Klein, and PNM VP Ron Darnell to discuss shutting down part of this coal-burning facility. Mark Jones and Barbara also met with John Arrowsmith, head of our DPU. Two units are to be shut down by 2017, but Los Alamos still has a share in #4, which is not being shut down.

The County is accelerating paying off our share in #4; by using less money on that, the County can invest in more alternative energy, such as wind energy.

Program Planning

Our meeting in early March did not identify proposals for additional local studies next year. Our League asked LWVNM to concur with the California position on mental health care and with the Las Cruces position on affordable housing, which is broader than ours. The LWVNM convention will be held in Las Cruces on May 18-19. Delegates from LWVLA are Barbara, Becky, Paul and Rosmarie Frederickson; Lynn Jones will be one of the LWVNM board delegates.

Adoption of Local Program

All our positions were reviewed and re-adopted with a few modifications.

Sustainability: approved

Public Transportation: Mike McKay suggested substituting "continue" for the word "subsidize." Mike moved, Mark Jones seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Affordable Housing: approved. Because of numerous questions, we're interested in hearing from the County's new affordable housing person.

Fuller Lodge: approved.

Medically Indigent Fund: We had extensive discussion of how it's allocated and whether we have enough to cover future needs. At a recent Council meeting, \$300,000 was added from the general fund to the GRT funding. We'd like to know more, including the possible impact of Obamacare. The County has hired a social services person—another person we'd like to hear from.

Sustainable Water: Numerous topics were suggested for revision, including working with LANL on water conservation. A group (Mark, Barbara, Jill, Lynn, Kathy, Liz Bennett) will meet to suggest modifications. We'd like further information on this topic.

Environment: approved.

Discussion: Karyl Ann asked how people know about our positions. Barbara said that last year the suggestion was made that we write articles about our positions—but we've had no time to do this. Mark suggested that we have a point person on each of the positions; again, we lack time and people. How do we lobby? Barbara clarified our lobbying procedures: anyone can lobby as a citizen; but to speak for the League, one must clear statements with LWVLA or LWVNM. People could feel comfortable quoting a League position and saying why they agree with it.

Motion to re-adopt the positions as currently presented, except for the changes above; moved by Ann, seconded by Lynn, accepted unanimously.

Adoption of the 2014 Budget

Kathy reviewed the process of developing an annual budget.

- The budget differs in election/non-election years. We need to allocate money for a Voters Guide, forums, etc. in election years. And because our fiscal year is May 1 to April 30, we may have election expenses in non-election years.
- Our biggest expense is PMP (per member payment).
- We budget small amounts for studies, arrangements, lunch with a leader.

- Another fluctuating expense is expenses for state and national conventions.

Ann moved to adopt the budget as presented, Lynn seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Note: Michael McKay suggested that the proposed budget should include a third column for actual expenses for the just-ending year.

Election of Officers and Board of Directors

Michael McKay presented the nominations for the 2013-2014 year. They are as follows:

Officers

President: Barbara Calef

1st Vice President: *not filled*

2nd Vice President: Rebecca Shankland

Treasurer: Rosmarie Frederickson

Secretary: Evelyn Petschek

Asst. Secretary: *not filled*

Directors

Arrangements: Kathy Taylor

Lunch with a Leader: Karyl Ann Armbruster

Membership: not filled [Lynn Jones and Rebecca Shankland, pro tem]

Voter Service: Lynn Jones

Off Board Directors

Fund-raising: Janie O'Rourke (Janet Hall for businesses)

Publicity: Jody Benson

Land Use and Transportation: Janie O'Rourke

Webmaster: Kathy Campbell

Observer Corps: Lynn Jones

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Taylor

Nominating Committee: Carroll Thomas, Michael McKay

The proposed slate was approved unanimously (moved by Kathy, seconded by Jill).

Adjournment

Ann moved, Jill seconded, and the motion to adjourn passed unanimously. After a pot-luck luncheon, the afternoon speaker was Michael Sharp, vice president of Research and Polling discussing "Redistricting: Process and Principles."

Rebecca 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 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

Calendar	1
Lunch with a Leader, June 13: Stephanie Richard	1
San Juan Chama Project	2
Report of May 9 LWL: JJAB Programs	2
Michael Sharp's Talk at the Annual Meeting	4
Observer Corps Report – May 2013	4
Land Use and Transportation Meeting	5
Brief Report on LWVNM Convention	5
Fund Drive Part 2: Thank You Note Party	5
Annual Meeting Minutes	6
Membership Form	9