



UPDATE

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

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Website: www.lwvlosalamos.org

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Calendar

July 16	Lunch with a Leader, LA Cares and Self Help, Los Alamos Public Library, 11:45 a.m.
July 22	Voices of LA, Todd Nelson on the TA-21 clean-up, Unitarian Church, 6:30 p.m.
July 23	Board Meeting, Mesa Public Library, noon

Lunch with a Leader: LA Cares and Self Help

Our July 16 Lunch with a Leader, held in Mesa Library at 11:45 a.m., will feature two wonderful Los Alamos organizations. One is Self Help, Inc., a non-profit run by Maura Taylor, a Los Alamos High School graduate who earned her bachelor's degree in economics from Lewis & Clark College, where she graduated summa cum laude. Since 1969, Self Help, Inc. has provided consultation, advocacy, emergency financial assistance, and seed money grants to residents of Los Alamos.

June Gladney will tell us about LA Cares, the second organization. LA Cares is a small, independent organization that provides help to the needy of Los Alamos County. Financial aid—usually for rent, utility payments, or car repair—is available once in a 12-month period. They also provide monthly food bank distribution at no cost.



Maura Taylor.
Photo courtesy of
LA Daily Post.

Co-President's Message: Los Alamos Becomes a Town and the League Becomes a League

Addie Jacobson, Barbara Calef, and I have been searching the League of Women Voters files in the Los Alamos Archives to sleuth out the early days of our organization. It's been an astonishing series of discoveries.

The first day we got no further than the year 1947, when the community (not yet a county) was struggling to figure out a structure of government and the League went from a "discussion group" to a Provisional League to a full League under the guidance of Mrs. Roma Crow Walters. (Most League participants were identified by their husband's names, but Roma was an exception.) She is the one who collected the newspaper articles from the Los Alamos Times that document the various League and community

Karyl Ann Armbruster

(continued on page 4)

Dec. 12



MERITS OF THE CITY MANAGER plan of government, which the League of Women Voters proposes be adopted for Los Alamos, are being illustrated by Mrs. David B. Hall. The plan was outlined at a public meeting Wednesday in town council hall. (Staff photo.)

League Advocates City Manager Plan

In a strong bid to the community to consider adopting the city manager form of government, the League of Women Voters in a public meeting Wednesday in town council hall marshaled points favoring the plan. Mrs. David B. Hall told how the plan might work efficiently for Los Alamos. Mrs. Robert I. Howes described the plan and its history; Mrs. Raemer E. Schreiber told how it works in other municipalities.

"The city manager form of government has gained worldwide recognition as the most democratic, economical and efficient form yet devised," said Mrs. Howes.



Mrs. Schreiber

Under it, she explained, the voters elect a council of five, seven or nine members who are directly responsible to the community. The council hires a trained city manager who is directly responsible to council members and who assumes all administrative authority. Under provisions of the civil service merit system he hires and fires city employees.



Mrs. Jenko

The city manager appoints his own department heads and coordinates the work of the various departments. Since he must be able to report progress and state of affairs to the council at any time, responsibility is centralized in the council elected by the people.

council manager plan proposed in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Schreiber said the plan, now in use in 725 municipalities here and abroad and that in 1947, 43 states had adopted it. New Mexico cities operating under city managers are Roswell, Albuquerque, Clayton, Clovis and Tucumcari.

According to Mrs. Schreiber, the city manager plan accomplishments have been: It has reduced partisan influence, improved city organization, permitted more long range planning, offered assistance by experts in various fields, raised standards of employee, made for

in explaining how the plan might work here, Mrs. Hall said there is now considerable confusion on concessions, with Zia Co.



Mrs. Howes

operating necessity concessions and community association operating luxury concessions. Differences of opinion arise between the two as to which each should operate.

Confusion also exists now, she said, because there is no direct contact between the electorate and many of the vital functions, including concessions, which operate under Zia contract.

The league proposal, she said, is that the electorate vote for a council who will hire a city manager under whom the various branches will function. A recreation board and citizen hospital board would be a part of this setup as would be a town planning board, traffic board and concessions.

This method of operating under the city manager plan would, she said, mean the electorate will have much more say-so concerning the activities now affecting it. It also would mean that places like the hospital would be able to discharge their dual responsibility to the tech area and to the town.

Mrs. Hall pointed out that the league recognizes that the AEC, through its area manager, retains the veto just as congress would retain its veto power under the

Dec 5 1947



THE INTERIM WOMEN'S HOUSING advisory committee is going into its third week of orientating itself among the intricacies of Hill housing under the guidance of the three men of the housing advisory board. Standing, from left, are Mrs. James Hobart, Mrs. A. M. Tucker, Miss Violet Kisse and Mrs. George Tennill. Seated, from left, are Mrs. Louis Rosen, housing chairman of the League of Women Voters, sponsors of the committee; Mrs. James K. Cooper, Mrs. Robert F. Armstrong and Mrs. W. L. Strohecker. On the policy board are Lt. Col. Austin W. Betts, C. D. McKee and Theodore B. Jensen.

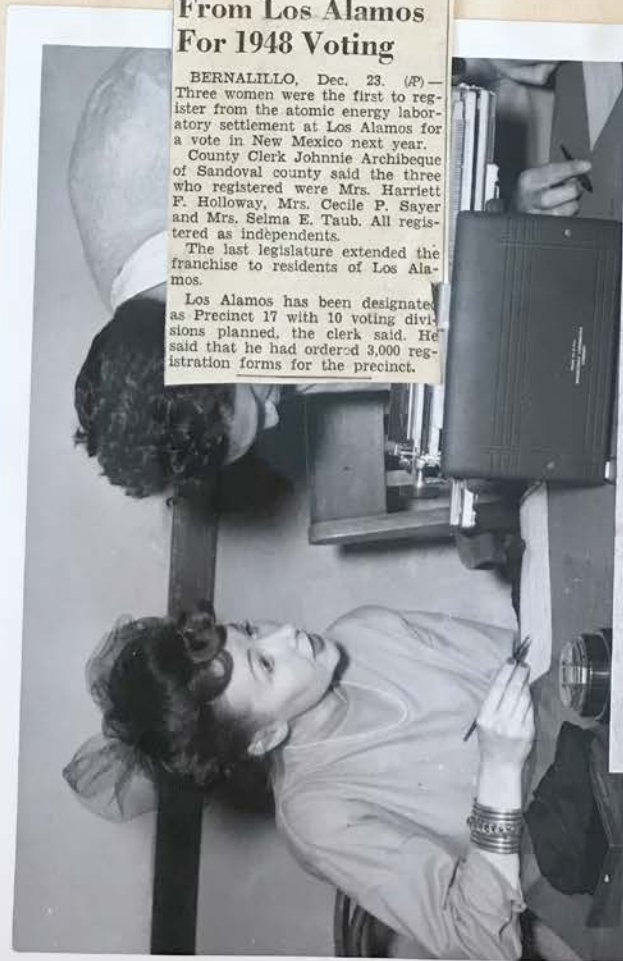
3 Women Register From Los Alamos For 1948 Voting

BERNALILLO, Dec. 23. (P)—Three women were the first to register from the atomic energy laboratory settlement at Los Alamos for a vote in New Mexico next year.

County Clerk Johnnie Archibeque of Sandoval county said the three who registered were Mrs. Harriett F. Holloway, Mrs. Cecile P. Sayer and Mrs. Selma E. Taub. All registered as independents.

The last legislature extended the franchise to residents of Los Alamos.

Los Alamos has been designated as Precinct 17 with 10 voting divisions planned, the clerk said. He said that he had ordered 3,000 registration forms for the precinct.



Cecil Sayer

The League chose three of its many photogenic members and sent them to Bernalillo with a photographer to be the first residents of Los Alamos to register to vote. Rams Walters.

1947 Los Alamos Highlights

1947 was an eventful year in the annals of Los Alamos. Management of the site passed from military to civilian hands, important steps forward were taken in the development of the community. A review of the headlines of the Los Alamos Times shows the following highlights:

January

Atomic energy commission takes over site.

1st Provisional Engineer Battalion, Manhattan Engineer district, activated, with Maj. Richard I. Newcomb commanding.

February

AEC announces new rent schedules and utility rates for Hill housing, effective March 1, 1947.

March

Senate bill 200, giving Los Alamos residents right to participate in state elections, passes New Mexico legislature.

Los Alamos Times enters second year of publication.

Col. Herbert C. Gee becomes area manager, with Lt. Col. Arthur C. Nauman as assistant manager.

House-to-house milk delivery system begins on Hill.

Site elects new town council, consisting of Charles R. Canfield, Don P. MacMillan, Kenneth S. Jensen, John R. Wieneke, Pat Lujan, Frederick C. Sander, Ronald Brinkman and Paul J. Dumm.

April

Senate confirms appointment of David Lillenthal as chairman of the AEC.

Project awards contracts for two supermarkets, sporting goods store, beauty parlor, roads and driveways in western housing area.

The Rev. Francis X. Campbell succeeds the Rev. Bernard M. Burns as pastor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary parish.

Security services arrives to police Los Alamos, under Chief Inspector John Carroll.

United (Protestant) Church receives ratification of congregation.

Robert E. McKee Co. receives contract for erection of Group II of Community Center.

Elmo R. Morgan, project manager for Zia Co., succeeds Lt. Col. Arthur C. Nauman as assistant manager to Carroll L. Tyler, manager, office of Santa Fe directed operations.

November

Charter granted to League of Women Voters group on Hill.

Edwin Brooks, Kenneth S. Jensen, Claude E. Hall, John R. Wieneke, Frank C. DiLuzio, James W. Hibbetts, Miss Beckie Bradford and Gilbert L. Campbell elected members of new town council.

Los Alamos gets own state voting precinct in Sandoval county.

AEC inaugurates air charter, air mail service for project.

Los Alamos Times announces it goes on business basis, with expanded size, Dec. 1.

December

Postoffice institutes house-to-house mail delivery service.

Los Alamos converts to dial system of telephones.

GI's depart from Los Alamos, relinquishing policing of town to AEC security services.

Friday, January 16, 1947

League of Women Voters Sponsors Membership Tea Thursday P.M.

The League of Women Voters will hold a membership tea Thursday afternoon from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norris E. Bradbury. League members are being asked to bring as their guests friends who might

be prospective members. The tea is open to any woman who is seriously considering affiliating with the league, Mrs. Palmer E. Schreiber, membership chairman, emphasized.

Honor guest at the tea will be Mrs. Erroll Horn, Washington, field representative of the national league. Mrs. Horn will be here to confer with Los Alamos league officials on the possibility of the local organization passing from provisional to active status.

Mrs. L. D. P. King is chairman of the arrangements committee for the tea. Assisting her are Mrs. James C. Hobart, Mrs. Sidney Newburger Jr., and Mrs. Schreiber. Mrs. William F. Jenike and Mrs. Eric L. Peterson will pour.

League Tenders Suggestions on Charter Group

The League of Women Voters is the first group on the Hill to offer a formally drafted set of suggestions to the town council for the appointment of a town planning board. Their recommendations, as presented by Mrs. F. M. Walters Jr., president, and signed by the league board, follow:

SIZE

It is our belief that a working committee of seven would be preferable to a larger group. This is a number often chosen by cities appointing charter commissions. It is more easily assembled for a meeting, as you well know, than a larger number. Also, a board of seven might enlarge itself by calling in experts and technical advisers when the occasion demanded it, without becoming an unwieldy committee.

PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

We do not think it is necessary or desirable to try to include on the planning board an educator, a minister or any other professional merely because they happen to belong to that profession. The board would be endless. If professions are to be represented, law and engineering might be favored. Even these, however, could be invited as specialists.

EMPLOYMENT GROUPS

We hope you will not consider employment groups as a measure for appointment. If it is necessary for any reason, unknown to us, to do so, may we suggest that anyone closely attached to the administration of AEC, tech or Zia be considered as liaison members only, and that they attend the meetings of the planning board by invitation.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The council will be faced with the problem of its own representation on the board. We think it might be represented by one of its members as an ex officio member of the board.

RECOMMENDED QUALIFICATIONS

We believe that the planning board should be a citizen board whose qualifications are measured by the objectivity of their thinking, their interest in and contribution to the community, and their understanding of the complexities of the problems of establishing municipal government here. It was

they will be considered for membership.

The responsibility of the council in the appointment of the planning board is great, but the responsibility of those who accept appointment is greater. We are confident that the people chosen will keep in mind the diversity of interests and opinions that make up our population and will formulate a plan best suited to carry out the purpose for which Los Alamos exists.

HOUSING GROUPS MEET

Meetings of two subcommittees of the woman's advisory housing committee have been announced for this week. The Morgan, McKee and Hanford area group will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the home of Mrs. Robert E. Armstrong, 1331 11th St. The Sundt type apartment area group will meet at 8 p.m. Tuesday at the home of Mrs. Ernest Lang, 669-C 25th St. All women living in these areas are invited to attend the group meetings pertaining to their housing type.

LEAGUE ASKS WOMEN TO DISCUSS HOUSING

Rent envelopes for January contain an invitation to Hill women from the League of Women Voters to attend meetings of the women's advisory housing committees. The invitation, which indicates subjects of discussion and lists committee heads for the various housing areas, was drawn up and folded by members of the committee. The housing office stuffed the envelopes.

CAREER OF OPPY LIFE REVIEWS

The Los Alamos Times. In the bookkeeping department of the Los Alamos Times. Lost almost No. 9. His wife, Lillian, who remains here, is cashier.

UNM registration figures include 35 students from foreign countries, Iran, and Alaska. "rest of us along." "I will power Oppy" was dragging the "we discovered that by sheer then." Life quotes one as remark- Alamos associates as saying, "But minister." Life quotes his Los Alamos to details to be a good ad- "To many, he seemed too indif- physician is director. ton, N. J., of which the famous- tute for Advanced Study, Prince- tion with an article on the Instec- comes in for comment in connec- its current issue. Oppenheimer ing and thinking." Life writes in- fell in order "to get back to teach- two months after the first bomb rector of Los Alamos, quit the Hill J. Robert Oppenheimer, first di-

activities that started our town on its road to independent governance—without her, our early days might be lost to history.

We'll start with three tidbits from 1947:

1. the League had 56 members;
2. the League allowed men to be Associate Members;
3. membership dues were \$2 a year.

Stay tuned as we unearth more intriguing facts from the old days, inspired by the upcoming 100th anniversary of women's suffrage and the League of Women Voters.

Rebecca Shankland,

Observer Corps Reports

County Council

We need a new County Council observer! If you watch and/or attend Council meetings, please volunteer for this important contribution to the League. We would like to know the details of Council discussions about issues relating to our positions. You can read our positions at <http://www.lwvlosalamos.org/positions.html>.

Barbara Calef

Board of Public Utilities

The Board of Public Utilities (BPU) met on June 19 for their regular monthly meeting. Department of Public Utilities (DPU) staff briefed BPU members on efforts conducted by the Pajarito Environmental Education Center to educate the community on water and energy conservation in accordance with their contract with DPU. Staff also provided an update on the status of the department's financial policies. Lastly, BPU members approved appointing Philo S. Shelton, III as the new utilities manager to replace Timothy A. Glasco, who is retiring. The Council approved this selection at the June 25 County Council meeting.

Julie Williams-Hill

Welcome, New Members!

We are delighted to introduce several more new members, some of whom were previously Friends of the League.

Ann Le Page writes: I came to Los Alamos in 2007 after serving two years as a missionary in Bolivia. As a librarian, I was asked to update the school (K-12) library. Seemed like a simple request. I was to learn nothing was simple in Bolivia. Previously my background was in insurance and banking. Now I enjoy sweet retirement, focusing on those needing assistance and on campaigns for women's issues. I enjoy travel, gardening, hiking, and tea.

Felicia Orth writes: My husband Evan Rose and I have lived in Los Alamos with our two sons since the fall of 1996. I've worked as an administrative law judge and hearing officer, primarily in environmental matters, since 1999. Previously, I worked in the Los Alamos County Attorney's Office, the NMED (New Mexico Environment Department) Office of General Counsel, and as an associate in a large law firm in the Midwest specializing in toxic tort litigation. I have an undergraduate degree in philosophy from Washington University in St. Louis and a law degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As president of the Pajarito Environmental Education Center Board of Directors, I helped with the capital campaign to raise money for the exhibits in the new nature center. At the same time, I chaired the capital campaign at the Unitarian Church to replace the former Army officer dormitory entirely. I've served on several County boards, including the Board of Public Utilities and the Labor-Management Relations Board, and on the boards of several other non-profits. I love cooking for large groups and frequently merge hospitality with fundraising. I also enjoy assisting smaller local non-profits with strategic planning.

Richard Sayre writes: Katie and I moved to Los Alamos in 2011. I worked at the lab until 2017 in the area of renewable fuels. In 2017, I co-founded Pebble Labs and currently serve as the Chief Scientific Officer. We enjoy hiking, backpacking, global travel, grandchildren, and their parents.

Adelaide (Addie) Jacobson writes: I am a 30-year resident of Los Alamos County, having moved here

from southeastern North Carolina. I retired from Los Alamos Public Schools but have had careers as a stay-at-home mom, a NC district court judge, and a practicing attorney in NC and NM. My volunteer activities include receptionist at the WR Senior Center, a medical appointment driver through the Los Alamos Volunteer Association / Los Alamos Retired and Senior Organization (LAVA/LARSO) office, and several ministries in my church. I enjoy being outdoors, reading, and people!

Rebecca Shankland, Membership Chair

Farewell, George Taylor

George Taylor, long-time League member and husband of Kathy Taylor, our League's treasurer, died on June 9. He led a remarkable life in aviation activities, both professional and amateur, and attended League events with Kathy until shortly before his death. His obituary may be found at <https://www.ladailypost.com/content/obituary-george-taylor-jan-8-1932-%E2%80%93-june-9-2019>.

Rebecca Shankland

June Lunch with a Leader: P&Z Chair Terry Priestley

Priestley began his PowerPoint presentation by noting that LANL encourages community involvement by its employees. The Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) has nine members serving 3-year terms with a limit of two terms. The quorum is five, but at least four affirmative votes are required for any action. No political party super-majority is allowed. Commissioners are appointed by the County Council. Three members of the P&Z constitute the Board of Adjustment, which considers waivers to the Development Code. Priestley remarked that there are currently no realtors or developers on the P&Z.

The commissioners are governed by the Open Meetings Act, which requires that reasonable notice be given of public meetings and that records be open.

The law prohibits action by a rolling quorum (when the members conduct business even though they are not physically present together at the same time and place). The commission is supported by Community Development Department (CDD) staff and the County's legal counsel.

The function of the P&Z commissioners is to make decisions regarding subdivisions, site plans, and special use permits. They are also responsible for Development Plan amendments, rezoning, and developing the Comprehensive Plan and amendments. Their decisions are subject to approval by the County Council. Their mission is to fulfill the constitutional requirement that no state may deprive any person of property without due process of law. To that end, they hold quasi-judicial hearings. Notice of the hearings must be posted 7 days in advance; all interested parties (owners of property within 300 yards of the subject property) receive individual notice; all participants must swear in to testify; and testimony is given by the applicant, county staff, and the public. The decisions of the P&Z must be based on the criteria in the Development Code. All plans must substantially conform to the Comprehensive Plan and not be materially detrimental to the health, safety, or general welfare of county residents. The decisions of the P&Z may be appealed within 15 days.

Priestley reviewed the recent projects that had been brought before the P&Z. There were a few commercial properties, including the Shriners' lot on Trinity, which was split so that a new building could be erected for a specialty retailer, with a new structure for the Shriners to be constructed at the back of the property.

Mirador is the housing project underway in White Rock. The contractor plans to build 161 market rate homes. The P&Z required them to build access to SR 4. Priestley remarked that there is no requirement in the law to consult the school board or the transportation board about impacts on schools and transit.

The Black Hole on Arkansas in the North Community comprised two lots and the site plan calls for 44 market-rate townhouses to be built there. On the north side of D.P. Road, the Canyon Walk Apartments will include 7 buildings with 10 affordable apartments each. Los Alamos County donated the land for that

project. The apartments will be 2, 3, and 4-bedroom for families with an income equal to or less than the area median income.

Future projects include a plan for about 80 apartments for affordable senior housing to be built on the south side of D.P. Road and called The Bluffs; and The Hill, a plan for 150 market-rate apartments to be built on the old DOE office site near the Medical Center.

Other housing projects might be proposed for the Middle School property on North Mesa and Arbolada, also on North Mesa.

Priestley closed his well-organized presentation with a plea for attendees to serve on one of the County's boards or commissions and a strong recommendation that we sign up for Leadership Los Alamos.

Barbara Calef

Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers to fill the open slots on both board and off-board positions. Don't be shy--volunteer! If you would like to serve either on or off the board, please contact Ellen Mills, the Nominations Chair at [efmillsnm\(AT\)gmail\(DOT\)com](mailto:efmillsnm(AT)gmail(DOT)com) or call 505-660-2345.

LWVLA Board of Directors 2019-2020

Officers:

- Co-presidents: Barbara Calef and Rebecca Shankland
- 1st Vice-President: Ellen Mills
- 2nd Vice-President: Leslie Wallstrom
- Treasurer: Kathleen Taylor
- Secretary: Rebecca Chaiken

Directors:

- Reservations: Amy Birnbaum
- Lunch with a Leader: Karyl Ann Armbruster
- Voter Services: Lynn Jones
- Board of Public Utilities Observer:
Julie Williams-Hill
- Publicity: Jody Benson
- Director at Large: Akkana Peck
- Fundraising: Rosmarie Frederickson

Off-board Directors:

- Arrangements: Wendy Swanson
- Membership: Rebecca Shankland
- Webmaster: Julie Williams-Hill
- County Council Observer: Becky Oertel
- Newsletter Editor: *not filled*
- Nominating Committee Chair: Ellen Mills
- 2nd Nominating Committee Member:
not filled

If you would like to join the League, fill out and submit the membership form on page 7.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ALAMOS

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail to: LWV Los Alamos
P.O. Box 158
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____ E-mail _____

☐ Check here to receive our local newsletter Update as an electronic file, saving us postage

☐ OR Check here if you prefer the newsletter mailed in hard copy.

☐ Check here if you wish to receive occasional friendly reminders of upcoming events by e-mail.

Membership Categories (All checks for memberships and contributions should be payable to LWV-Los Alamos and all are now tax-deductible.)

☐ 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

☐ Contribution: \$ _____

Interests and Ways to Help the League (check as many as apply)

Topics of Interest

☐ Affordable Housing

☐ Local Government

☐ Education

☐ Elections, Voting Rights

☐ Water Issues

☐ Land Use

☐ Health Care

☐ Money in Politics

☐ Sustainability

☐ Living Wage

☐ Public Transportation

☐ Environment

☐ Other topics (please suggest):

Ways to Help with League Activities

☐ Set up Refreshments at Forums

☐ Observer Corps (County Council, DPU, etc.)

☐ Nominating Committee

☐ Voter Guide Committee

☐ Voter Registration

☐ Publicity

☐ Website, Social Media

☐ Newsletter

☐ Membership

☐ Fund-raising

☐ Budget Committee for LWV

☐ Lunch with a Leader (assistance)

☐ Fund-raising Committee for LWV

☐ Participate in board meetings or join the board

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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