



UPDATE

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

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

Website: www.lwvlosalamos.org

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Calendar

August 10 Rodeo Parade, begins at the Municipal Building on Central, 10 a.m., marchers gather at 9 a.m.
August 20 Lunch with a Leader, Genie Stevens, Los Alamos Public Library, 11:45 a.m.
August 26 Voices of LA, Unitarian Church, 6:30 p.m.
August 27 Board Meeting, Mesa Public Library, noon
September 14 "Productive Meetings" workshop, White Rock Library, 10 a.m.
September 17 Lunch with a Leader: Eric Martinez, Los Alamos Public Library, 11:45 a.m.
September 23 Voter Registrar Training, County Building, 11 a.m.
September 24 National Voter Registration Day
Board Meeting, Mesa Public Library, noon
October 1 LWVLA Membership Meeting, location TBD, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Lunch with a Leader: Genie Stevens, the Global Warming Express

In August, Genie Stevens will speak about the campaign to educate children (and, through them, adults) about climate change. Stevens grew up on Cape Cod and Nova Scotia. She attended Dalhousie University in Canada, Emerson College in Boston, Harvard University in Cambridge, and the University of New Mexico for studies in theatre direction, education, psychology, and cross-cultural communication. She has lived, for the most part, in NM since 1993, where she has raised her daughter, Marina, who instigated the idea for the after-school program, The Global Warming Express, based upon the book that Marina wrote to give to President Obama.

Being raised by an ocean scientist in a naturalist family caused Stevens to be a life-long advocate for nature and, in 2012, she decided to dedicate her work



Two Global Warming Express students from Acequia Madre School and Genie Stevens, Co-founder and Executive Director of the Global Warming Express. Photo courtesy of santaferadiocafe.org.

exclusively to the environment and, specifically, to bringing education about climate change and the solutions to children and youth.

Our September 17 program will feature Eric Martinez, the County Engineer. Martinez oversees the Engineering & Project Management Division within the Public Works Department. He joined Los Alamos County in 2015 and has over 20 years of experience serving in various engineering and management capacities.

The County's Engineering & Project Management Division manages the study, design, and construction of multi-modal transportation and facility capital improvement projects and programs including the pavement management program, major facilities maintenance program, and surveying and mapping services. Martinez will mostly discuss roads, traffic, and the improvements currently in progress.

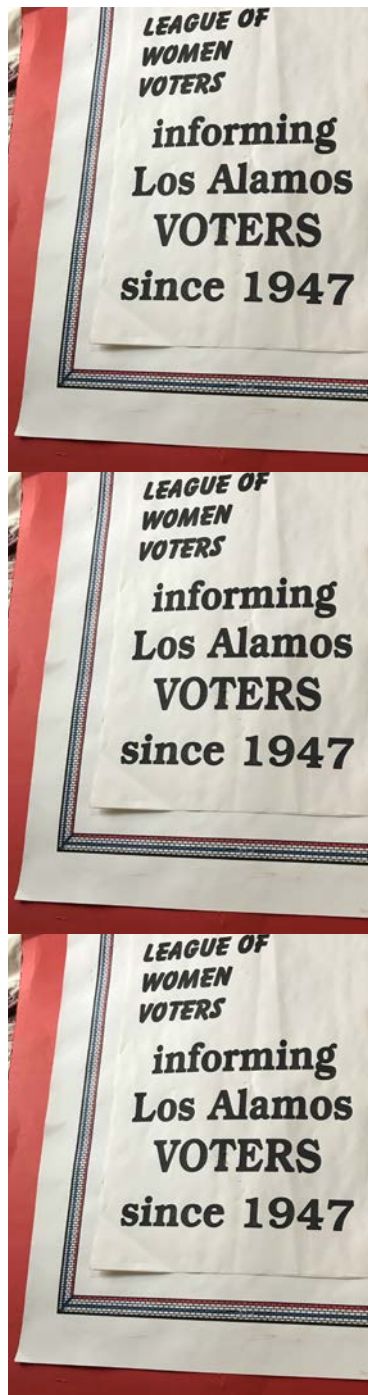
Karyl Ann Armbruster

Co-President's Message: Local Suffragists Take to the Streets August 10

Under the banner of "Votes for Women," League members will march in the Rodeo Parade this Saturday, August 10, to kick off the year-long festivities that will honor those who struggled and suffered for so many years to gain women's right to vote.

Ellen Mills has led the charge to celebrate our foremothers' good work during the next year. We'll have banners, posters, sashes, ribbons for hats—all of which can be re-used at other events, both here in Los Alamos and at the State

House in 2020. Numerous colors were used 100 years ago, but we've settled on white clothing with white, purple, and green sashes and ribbons.



For the Rodeo Parade, League members will carry some posters from the good old days of marching: these were preserved in our collections by our beloved former member Lois Godfrey.

We welcome non-League members and Friends of the League to join us—but if you want some regalia, let us know as soon as possible (contact Ellen Mills: [efmillsnm\(AT\)gmail\(DOT\)com](mailto:efmillsnm(AT)gmail(DOT)com)).

Now for the basic question that confuses so many of us: why are there so many dates to celebrate?

1893 to 1920: The National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) was founded as a merger of two other suffrage groups. Carrie Chapman Catt became its president in 1895, succeeding Susan B. Anthony. In 1920, this group merged yet again (with the National Council of Women Voters) to become the National League of Women Voters. So, the League of Women Voters will be 100 years old on February 14, 2020.

On May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives passed the "Anthony" Amendment (named for Susan B. Anthony) for the second time. Then on June 4, the Senate passed it as well.

On August 18, 1920, the requisite $\frac{3}{4}$ of the states ratified what now became the 19th Amendment. (It passed in Tennessee by a mere one vote.)

On August 26, 1920, the United States Secretary of State signed the 19th Amendment into law.

And that's why we will be engaged in celebrations for the next twelve months.

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 role. We would like to know the details of Council discussions about issues relating to our positions. You can read our positions at the following url: <http://www.lwvlosalamos.org/positions.html>.

At the July 9 County Council meeting, Anne LePage presented her petition requesting action to ban the use/distribution of plastic bags, straws, and Styrofoam in Los Alamos County. After hearing public comment and a lengthy discussion among the councilors, Council directed staff and associated boards “to investigate and research the matter and return to Council with information, options or a recommendation by December 1, 2019.” Councilors Sheehey, Robinson, and Schmidt volunteered to form an ad hoc committee to direct the investigation.

Other zero waste news from the County Manager’s July update: Los Alamos County Environmental Services and Los Alamos Public Schools collaborated and received a \$15,000 grant from New Mexico Environment Department – Recycling and Illegal Dumping Grant Fund. The funds were used to purchase 16 water bottle filling stations, which were installed at each of the LAPS schools. The project is an effort to reduce single-use plastic water bottles at the schools. With this initiative thousands of water bottles will be eliminated from the waste stream each year.

Barbara Calef

Board of Public Utilities

The Board of Public Utilities (BPU) meeting was held on July 17th. BPU members were presented with an update by Department of Public Utilities (DPU) staff on the condition of electric production utility assets. A \$2 million contract was approved by the BPU for the design of the replacement White Rock Wastewater Treatment facility. DPU staff will now seek approval from the County Council to award the contract.

BPU members also approved a Resolution to increase the County’s entitlement share in the Carbon-Free Power Project (CFPP). This is a project the County is exploring to construct a nuclear generation facility in Idaho, using small modular reactor (SMR) technology through the [Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems](#). The additional shares would come from the [US Department of Energy’s \(DOE’s\) Joint Use Modular Plant \(JUMP\) program](#). DOE will use one of the SMRs in the CFPP facility to power research projects such as desalination and hydrogen production. After completion of the research, in approximately 15 years, the power generated by the DOE JUMP module will be available to other CFPP owners. All capital costs will have already been paid for by the DOE. The BPU-approved Resolution expresses the County’s interest in taking 3 MW to possibly 10 MW from DOE’s JUMP program. This would increase the County’s current subscription of 8 MW up to a total of 11 MW, possibly 18 MW. The County Council will consider the Resolution at the Tuesday, August 6 Council meeting.

Lastly, the BPU moved next month’s meeting to Thursday, August 22.

Julie Williams-Hill

Planning and Zoning Commission

The Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) held a public hearing at their June 12 meeting regarding the Canyon Walk Apartments (SIT-2019-0035). Bethel Development Inc. requested site plan approval for construction of 70 new apartment units. The multi-family affordable rental housing complex would consist of seven apartment buildings, each with two stories on the south side and three stories on the north side, plus a one-story office for building management purposes, with associated on-site landscaping, parking, and traffic circulation. The site is located on the north side of DP Road (120 DP Road). The lot is currently vacant and zoned Mixed-Use. The project will have on-site parking, bike racks, and access to the Canyon Rim multi-use trail that passes through the site.

Dan Terlecki, of Bethel Development Inc., presented the request for site plan approval to develop an affordable housing complex. He shared project history, providing information on financing, site details,

and aesthetic descriptions. They would like to start construction in the early fall, to be completed by December 2020. To date, Bethel Development Inc. has built 26 affordable housing projects in Arizona and New Mexico.

Ryan Foster, LA Principal Planner, presented the staff's site plan review with a slideshow, noting applicant responses to site review criterion, IDRC (inter-departmental review committee) staff comments and conditions, and concluded that the applicant meets the criteria for approval of the site plan (subject to a list of conditions), and forwarded a favorable recommendation to the P&Z.

Commissioners, applicants, and the public were given the opportunity to comment. Andrew Till, resident within the site notification zone, asked about noise and light disturbance during construction. Planned construction hours are 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays (often ending between 3 and 4 p.m., no weekend hours); neighbors will be notified of necessary schedule changes. Exterior lighting will comply with county code and the NM Dark Sky Protection Act.

The commissioners asked questions regarding safety and livability on the site, which is classified as a brown fields site. Staff cited that it passed LANL and NMED site assessments, meeting federal and county health standards. The applicant conducted an Environmental Impact Study (level 1 & 2) and the EIS conclusions concurred with the site assessments. The P&Z motion to approve the site plan with nine conditions was passed 5 to 1 with two commissioners absent.

The P&Z commission held a public hearing at their July 10 meeting regarding The Hill Apartments (SIT-2019-0036). Santa Fe Engineering Consultants requested site plan approval for construction of 149 new apartment units. The multi-family market rate rental housing complex would consist of seven apartment buildings, two garages, two lofts/garages, one clubhouse with a swimming pool, a pool ramada, and a BBQ ramada, with associated on-site landscaping, parking, and traffic circulation. The site is located on the south side of 35th Street approximately 200 feet south of Trinity Drive at 121 & 141 35th Street. The lot is vacant and zoned Mixed-Use.

Mike Perry, of Santa Fe Engineering Consultants, presented the request for site plan approval to develop the housing complex along with three waivers for exterior building materials, building height and parking. The three waivers submitted as a component of the site plan application were described in detail. The site plan identifies a 20-foot trail easement along the canyon rim.

Ryan Foster, LA Principal Planner, presented the staff's site plan review with a slideshow, noting applicant responses to site review criterion, IDRC (inter-departmental review committee) staff comments and conditions, and a favorable recommendation.

Three residents within the site notification zone asked questions. In response to a question about noise and light disturbance, it was stated that trees along the boundary of the site and in the undeveloped section will be retained as buffers and other trees and shrubs planted in the developed section. Exterior lighting will comply with county code and the NM Dark Sky Protection Act.

The commissioners asked questions regarding the waivers and requested staff clarification of detail and intent for the code elements under consideration. Plan details for safe ingress/egress from the housing complex to Trinity Drive were requested. Foster stated that the project is a public/private partnership and that the county is to manage the traffic study and final remedy in conjunction with NMDOT through the ongoing intersection improvements project. It is proposed that 35th Street be realigned with 36th on the north side of Trinity (the street name of 36th will carry on both sides). A sidewalk will be installed on one side of 36th to the entrance of the site.

The P&Z considered each waiver separately. The motions to approve the waivers, and the site plan with some conditions, passed without dissent.

Wendy Swanson

Parliamentary Workshop in White Rock

The Santa Fe Parliamentary Unit has a member who

lives in White Rock. The Unit will meet at the White Rock Library for the September meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 14. A free public “Productive Meetings” workshop will be offered at 10 a.m. that day at that library. All in attendance will receive a free copy of the latest edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order - In Brief.” League members and the general public are welcome to attend. We will send out a pre-registration form soon.

Jan Strand, LWVNM Parliamentarian

Welcome, New Members!

Wendy Marcus writes: I have been an attorney for 27 years and have been in Los Alamos for 20. I do estate planning law, wills, trusts, probate, etc. I have two kids that I raised here. Oh, and a husband too!

I volunteer a great deal: at the History Museum, as a Girl Scout leader for seven years, doing lots of free legal work for non-profits. I was on the Los Alamos Employees Scholarship Fund for six years. I enjoy hiking, photography, and cooking (when I am in the mood).

I look forward to working with the League on important issues, raising awareness, lobbying and voting rights. I was certified as a voter registrar last year and spent several Saturdays outside Smith’s registering people to vote, reminding them of the election and instructions for mail-in ballots. Democracy is a participatory sport! I look forward to working with you all.

July Lunch with a Leader: Self Help & LA Cares

Self Help is celebrating its 50th birthday, having been founded in 1969. Maura Taylor told the group at Lunch with a Leader that she had been a financial analyst in Oregon, but serving as executive director of Self Help is her dream job. “Anyone can hit a pothole,” she said, so the organization fills an important



Maura Taylor.
Photo courtesy of
LA Daily Post.

niche. It can provide seed money to start a business, help families assess their needs, and give referrals. An assistance program provides grants to 400 families a year, about 800 people. Most of them live in Rio Arriba County, although there is also poverty in Los Alamos County.

Risk factors contributing to poverty include grandparents raising grandchildren, victims of crime, and single mothers. Over half of the clients are disabled. Taylor said that it can take three to four years to begin receiving benefits after becoming disabled and those benefits may not be sufficient. Self Help can contribute co-pays, provide substance abuse treatment, and help survivors of domestic abuse.

The funding is provided from many sources. Much of it comes from individual donations. All local donations to the Salvation Army go to Self Help. Under Triad management, LANL will match donations by employees.

The organization is trying to open a satellite office in Española. Taylor has a part-time assistant, Megan Fox, a board, and seven to eight volunteers helping out for a few hours each week.

Linda Burns announced that LA Cares is 25 years old and was initially called Homeless Services of Los Alamos. Originally it just provided financial aid, but has changed its focus to feeding people. In 1999 the name was changed to LA Cares, and its services are limited to residents of the county. The first distribution was in May 1995. Presently it serves 75 families a month. Last year 98 families received financial aid. Up to \$400 per family is available once a year and is based on the flow of requests.

Fifty volunteers are needed to perform the monthly distribution. The clients call in on Sunday, a spreadsheet is compiled, food is picked up from the grocery store and storage, labels are printed, boxes assembled and distributed on Friday. LA Cares receives no grants. Some food is supplied by the Food Depot and Smith’s; food is also purchased from Smiths. A place of their own with space for storing food would make the process much easier. Now, they operate out of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, but cannot store food there.

LA Cares receives donations from the Boy Scout and post office food drives. There is also a box at the Walkup Center for food. The funding is mostly donations, including a match from LANL. Recently 100 Men Who care gave \$4,500 and N3B gave \$12,500.

Barbara Calef

Election Law Changes

County Council

This year a 425-page bill, House Bill 407, titled “Election Laws 50-Year Tune-up” was enacted. The new law mandates that the members of our County Council be assigned to districts even though they are elected at large. It also requires that we elect four councilors on the presidential ballot and three on the gubernatorial ballot. The New Mexico Supreme Court will consider challenges to some provisions of the law on September 13.

In the meantime, the Office of the Secretary of State determined that, since we had been voting for four councilors on a gubernatorial ballot, one of them had to be selected for an extended term. Councilors Izraelevitz, Robinson, Ryti, and Scott drew lots; Izraelevitz was chosen and will serve until 2024.

These are the new district numbers:

- Councilor Maggiore – District 1; term ends 2020
- Councilor Robinson – District 2; term ends 2022
- Councilor Izraelevitz – District 3; term extended to 2024
- Councilor Ryti – District 4; term ends 2022
- Councilor Schmidt – District 5; term ends 2020
- Councilor Scott – District 6; term ends 2022
- Councilor Sheehey – District 7; term ends 2020

School Board, UNM-LA Advisory Board Elections

Due to passage of the Local Election Act in 2018, Los Alamos voters will return to the polls to vote for school board members, UNM-LA Advisory Board members, and bond issues in November of odd-numbered years rather than in February.

Voter Registration

This year same day registration will be allowed at the County Clerk’s office until the Saturday before Election Day.

Third party voter registrars need to be aware that some of the rules have changed. The County Clerk plans to hold a training for voter registrars on Monday, September 23rd at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers.

Barbara Calef

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
- 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.

<i>In This Issue</i>	<i>Page</i>
Calendar	1
Lunch with a Leader: Genie Stevens, the Global Warming Express	1
Co-President's Message:	
Local Suffragists Take to the Streets August 10	2
Observer Corps Reports	
County Council	3
Board of Public Utilities	3
Planning and Zoning Commissions	3
Parliamentary Workshop in White Rock	4
Welcome, New Members!	5
July Lunch with a Leader: Self Help & LA Cares	5
Election Law Changes	
County Council	6
School Board, UNM-LA Advisory Board Elections	6
Voter Registration	6
LWVLA Board of Directors	6
Membership Form	7