

## **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

www.lwvlosalamos.org

Volume 72, Number 9 February 2020 Co-Presidents: Barbara Calef <u>bfcalef(AT)gmail(DOT)com</u> and

Rebecca Shankland rebecca.shankland(AT)gmail(DOT)com

Newsletter: JoAnn Lysne <u>i.lysne(AT)runbox(DOT)com</u>

#### Calendar

February 4 Proclamation of LWVUS Centennial, County Council Chambers, 6 p.m.

February 5 LWVNM Legislative Reception, Rio Chama, 414 Old Santa Fe Trail, SF, 5:30 p.m.

February 6 LWVNM League Day: CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

February 11 Program Planning Meeting, 20 Bonito Place, 4:30-6 p.m.

February 18 Lunch with a Leader, What is the Status of Citizens United?, Mesa Public Library, 11:45 a.m.

February 25 Board Meeting, Mesa Public Library, noon

April 21 Annual Meeting

# **Lunch with a Leader:** What is the Status of Citizens United?

Ishwari Sollohub, a concerned citizen and political activist, is working to restore American democracy by passing a 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution to reverse the effects of the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision. On February 18 she and John House will be discussing the reasons behind the proposed amendment, strategies we can pursue, and how we can help our County Council pass a resolution in support of the amendment.

In March our leader will be Maire O'Neill. Maire founded the *Los Alamos Reporter* in September of 2019 as a forum for news from Los Alamos and beyond. Born and raised in Ireland, Maire spent several years working and traveling in Europe before coming to the United States in 1983. She is a naturalized U.S. citizen. Her husband Mike and daughter JoAnna moved to Los Alamos in 2005.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

# LWVLA Proposes Proclamation to Recognize 100 Years of Women's Suffrage and 73 Years of LWVLA

On February 4, the County Council will proclaim the year 2020 as the 100th year of women's right to vote, the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters, and the 73rd anniversary of the

Update, February 2020 Page 1

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos. Addie Jacobson, Barbara Calef, and Becky Shankland drafted the proclamation that originally had some nice tidbits of Los Alamos history, but we had to

shorten it for Council purposes. Here's our original—it reveals how important the League was in establishing self-government for Los Alamos.

#### **Proclamation for County Council**

Whereas, American women struggled for 70 years to gain the right to vote and the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, recognizing women's right to vote, was only ratified on August 26, 1920; and

Whereas, the League of Women Voters of the United States was founded on February 14, 1920 for the purpose of educating newly enfranchised women about the issues to be decided at the polls, and the League of Women Voters of New Mexico was founded that same year; and

Whereas, the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos was founded in 1947; and in that year three members of the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos were the first residents to register to vote, having registered in Precinct 17 of Sandoval County when the New Mexico legislature granted suffrage to the atomic energy laboratory settlement at Los Alamos; and

Whereas, after the New Mexico State Supreme Court disenfranchised the 3,000 voters of Los Alamos in 1948, finding them to be residents not of the state but of a federal jurisdiction, the League of Women Voters and others began a campaign to have the federal government cede political jurisdiction of Los Alamos to the state of New Mexico; and

Whereas, the League has contributed to the welfare of Los Alamos by

- advocating for a city manager/town council form of government (1947-48),
- advocating for a Library Board independent of the Board of Education (1948),
- advocating for a hospital board composed of citizens, medical personnel, and administration (1948),
- advocating for an elected School Board with an appointed Superintendent (1950),
- advocating for at-large election of county commissioners (1959-60),
- advocating for county ownership of utilities (1962-1964),
- advocating for and founding the Los Alamos Farmers Market (1970),
- advocating for a medically indigent fund for Los Alamos (1987-89); and

Whereas, the League played a leading role in establishing Los Alamos as an H-Class County of New Mexico in 1964; and

Whereas, the League has held forums on Los Alamos civic issues such as housing, recreation, land use, and the County Charter; and

Whereas, the League has led voter registration drives and provided non-partisan Candidate Forums and Voter Guides for elections at the county, state, and national levels;

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Los Alamos County Council that in the year 2020 the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos be congratulated on its 73rd anniversary and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of women's right to vote.

#### **Co-President's Message:** Seven Reasons to Participate in the Centennial of Women's Suffrage

You have several chances to celebrate the centennial of women's right to vote this week: hear the County Council proclamation at 6 p.m. on February 4; attend the Legislative Reception from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Rio Chama on February 5; and participate in League Day at the Legislature on February 6.

Here are some reasons why you should be involved.

- 1. **Guilt.** It's now so easy for women to vote and participate in politics. But imagine 1917's Night of Terror when women who had been peacefully picketing the White House were rounded up, imprisoned, beaten, forcefed, even manacled to prison bars in a standing position.
- 2. **Pride**. Since gaining suffrage by marching, protesting, agitating, and proclaiming their rights, women have worked at every level of government and with many organizations to pass legislation to improve the lives of women, children, and men. How many of these laws were expedited by the active support of women?
- 3. **Fear.** Are you worried that our democracy is now in peril? Join with others to fight to protect it.
- 4. **History.** Celebrate the fact that 1920 was not only the year of the 19th Amendment but was also the year that the League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt.
- 5. **Camaraderie.** Whatever you believe in is more likely to become reality if you're part of a group. Study and debate with an intelligent group like the League of Women Voters.

- 6. **Education**. Learn about the women who led the suffrage movement and the important moments in their struggle. Take the Centennial Day Quiz in this *Update* to check your current knowledge and improve your score for League Day.
- 7. **Meet our heroes.** Nina Otero Warren, Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, Alice Paul, and others will be at the Roundhouse, attending a 12:30 ceremony with some of our current female leaders including Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, LWVUS Director Virginia Kase, and many of our honored NM legislators.

And remember that there will be a suffrage flag cake and lemonade!

Rebecca Shankland

#### Centennial Quiz

Match the descriptions with the correct answer. Some answers must be used more than once.

1. Founder of the League of Women Voters
2. The 19 <sup>th</sup> Amendment is often named for
her
3. Year of the first major convention of
suffragists at Seneca Falls, NY
4. Year the 19th Amendment was passed by
Congress
5. Year that <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> of states finally ratified 19 <sup>th</sup>
Amendment
6. Year that the League of Women Voters
was founded
7. Year that Women's Suffrage Amendment
was first introduced in Congress
8. Year of the Night of Terror, where
picketing women were jailed, beaten,
force-fed, even manacled to prison bars
9. In 1913, she organized national suffragist
parade with all states, flags, costumes,

- marching bands, timed for Woodrow Wilson's inauguration.

  \_\_\_\_10. With three friends, she registered and voted in an election in NY in 1872; was arrested and fined
  \_\_\_\_11. New Mexican Hispanic suffragist who ran for US Representative in 1922, active in
- NM education, arts
  \_\_\_\_12. Orator who often gave the speeches written by Elizabeth Cady Stanton.
- \_\_\_\_13. Escaped slave who became a leading suffragist
- \_\_\_\_14. Quaker abolitionist who became an early suffragist; one of Seneca Falls organizers
  - \_\_15. Wrote the Seneca Falls *Declaration of Sentiments*, including "All men and women are created equal."
- A. 1848
- B. 1872
- C. 1917
- D. 1919
- E. 1920
- F. Lucretia Mott
- G. Sojourner Truth
- H. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- I. Susan B. Anthony
- J. Alice Paul
- K. Carrie Chapman Catt
- L. Nina Otero-Warren

[Answers on page 12.]

# Looking for a Few New Board Members for 2020-2021!

Our League board is elected annually at our April meeting, this year on April 21. The entire board is open to new directors, now structured as follows:

#### Officers:

 President (currently serving with a copresident)

- First vice-president, president-elect
- · Second vice-president
- Secretary
- Treasurer

#### Board of Directors: (not more than 8)

- Reservations
- Lunch with a Leader
- · Webmaster and Social Media
- Newsletter
- Publicity
- Voter Services
- Director-at-Large
- Director-at-Large

#### Off-Board:

- Arrangements
- Fund-raising
- Membership
- County Council Observer
- DPU Observer
- Planning and Zoning Observer

The above list is our current configuration, but Off-Board and Board portfolios can be altered to suit the preferences of nominees. All positions are for one year and the board meets once a month, currently the 4th Tuesday at noon in Mesa Public Library.

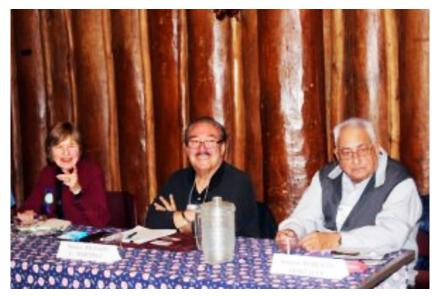
The Nominating Committee is Ellen Mills, chair, and JoAnn Lysne, member. If they call or write to you, be sure to tell them how you'd like to serve—either on- or off-board. If the duties of any position are unclear, they can explain what's involved. To see who is currently serving on our board, see the list in this newsletter. We welcome new board members in this busy year of the League centennial.

Ellen Mills can be reached at efmillsnm(AT)gmail(DOT)com, 505-660-2345.

Becky Shankland

#### Report on the 2020 Legislative Preview

The LWVLA-AAUW Legislative
Preview was the first opportunity for
many in our county to meet Senator
Roberto Gonzales, who was
appointed by Governor Lujan
Grisham to replace Senator
Cisneros, who died in September.
Also speaking at the forum were
Representative Christine Chandler,
Senator Richard Martinez, and New
Mexico Voices for Children Deputy
Director Amber Wallin. Helena
Whyte of AAUW was the
moderator.



From left, Rep. Christine Chandler, Sen. Richard Martinez and Sen. Roberto Gonzales. Photo by Bonnie J. Gordon/ladailypost.com

Chandler reflected on the last legislative session, which was her first as a representative. 2019 was a great year for education, especially for K-12 and Pre-K for All. However, further salary raises are needed as well as adjustments to help the schools absorb the increased costs for providing Pre-K to younger children.

She re-filed her bill, HB 16, for Paid Family and Medical Leave. She was aware that it might not pass this year and noted that, "Every single bill will be changed before it passes." (The bill was ruled not germane.) She is also sponsoring HB 17 Disclosure Requirements for Private Colleges to require the schools to provide information about costs and benefits to potential students before they enroll and HB 44 New Mexico Work and Save Act to facilitate putting assets in IRA accounts.

Speaking about the bills the governor is supporting, Chandler remarked that some of them will be heavy lifts, including HB 7 Extreme Risk Firearm Protection Order Act, also known as the red flag law, which would allow household

members and law enforcement officers to ask a court for an order to temporarily take weapons and ammunition from someone who is making violent threats against himself or others. Other bills where the outcome is uncertain are the Cannabis Regulation Act (HB 160 and SB 115) to legalize marijuana and HB 14, the Opportunity Scholarship Act. The governor is also supporting SB 29, Solar Market Development Tax Credit.

Senator Martinez began by joking that "the House passes everything to the Senate knowing we will fix it." The legislative sessions should last 90 days every year, he said. But, since the even year sessions are only 30 days long, they should be limited to the budget. All of the legislators should have the opportunity to serve on the Interim Finance Committee to understand how it works. He is sponsoring bills for lowincome residential energy weatherization (SB153), low income veteran home rehab (SB 204) and noted the need for appropriations for drug treatment centers and wastewater funding, which qualifies for matching federal funding. Regarding the governor's call, he said that free public college and increased spending on early

childhood education will require funding that must be found for the plans to proceed.

Senator Gonzales served in the NM House for 25 years, representing District 42 (Taos). Having served as Vice-Chair of the Appropriations and Finance Committee, he has worked extensively on finance and taxes. He said his question to petitioners is, "Do you understand where it comes from?" He predicted that future oil and

gas revenues would decline, saying that there were 100 new wells last year, but production drops in the second year and continues to decrease. If the state's bond rating can be improved, we would pay less for bonding, helping to offset the drop in revenue.

Gonzales wants a permanent fund for infrastructure and is sponsoring SB 166 Rural Air Service Enhancement Act to "provide assistance to airlines in the establishment of regional air service for rural communities to and from hub airports."

Gonzales is a former school superintendent. He said he would rather do Pre-K right than rushing it, using the multi-year roll-out of universal full day kindergarten in New Mexico as an example. He expects the director of the new Early Childhood Education and Care Department to develop a plan for that purpose.

Regarding the comment Senator Martinez made about wanting 90-day sessions, Gonzales said that would require a constitutional amendment. The meetings of the interim committees have been extended because the legislators cannot get the work done during the session.

All three legislators support increasing the gas tax, but Senator Gonzales said, "We've had a gas tax bill every year for the past 10 years, but we can't get it out of committee." Chandler added that all efforts to raise revenue through taxes face strong opposition by lobbyists. She told the audience that, "We need people coming to our meetings to talk about raising revenue if we are going to raise taxes of people who can afford it."



New Mexico Voices for Children Deputy Director Amber Wallin. Photo by Bonnie J. Gordon/ ladailypost.com

Amber Wallin opened her talk with a history of Voices for Children. The organization was founded 30 years ago by pediatricians. Their goal is to improve child well-being by addressing the issues of poverty, health, and education. She said that 42% of working families in the state are low income. The government is unable to fund important services for families. Funding was cut between 2003 and 2018. Some tax reform passed the legislature in 2019, but much more is needed. The state's revenue stream needs to be diversified and increased. Voices supports higher taxes

for wealthy individuals and corporations, a reduction in the capital gains tax exclusion, and fewer exemptions for the GRT.

Voices supports an increase in Working Families Tax Credits; higher education funding for those in need; healthy, safe childcare assistance (not just education); full funding for the Census; and long-term fiscal stability.

Barbara Calef

#### Welcome, New Members!

We are delighted to welcome several people who joined recently. We hope to let you know a little about them in future newsletters.

Kurt Steinhaus Joyce Zaugg Sara Scott

#### **Program Planning Meeting**

In preparation for our Annual Meeting on April 21 and the LWVUS Convention in June, we will hold a program planning meeting on Tuesday, February 11, at Rebecca Chaiken's home, 20 Bonito Drive (off Los Pueblos), in Los Alamos. It will be a late afternoon, early evening event, from 4:30-6 p.m. All League members are invited to participate. This is your opportunity to help choose the issues to which we dedicate our time during the next year. Is there a study we should undertake? How do we feel about the decisions being made for our County?

New members may ask, "What is League Program?" Program is the basis for the League's education and action efforts. It includes the current League positions and plans for updating them as well as the issues that League members choose for study and action. We are constrained in that the problem must be one that can be addressed by governmental (as opposed to private) action. Also, there must be members available to work on the issue, and the issue should be one in which the League is likely to make a difference in the outcome.

To develop a new position, the League must adopt a study and carry it out through research and discussion. Advocacy is based on adopted positions. Leagues may act on national program only in conformity with positions taken by the LWVUS. Similarly, state Leagues are responsible for determining action policies and strategies on state issues. Local Leagues may use state or national positions for lobbying at the local level, but local positions may not be used at the broader levels.

On February 11 the LWVLA members will meet for

- 1.Local League Program Planning: We will discuss whether we want to conduct any new studies during 2020-21, whether we need to update any of our local positions and what actions and activities we want to undertake to implement our positions. See our current positions on our website at <a href="http://lwvlosalamos.org">http://lwvlosalamos.org</a>.
- 2. National Program Planning: The national League has asked us to discuss the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®. The LWVUS Board recommends that Program 2020-2022 continue the campaign for Making Democracy Work® with Leagues throughout the country working on: Redistricting; Voting Rights; Improving Elections; Campaign Finance/ Money in Politics. They want to know if we support that focus and/or if we wish to recommend another program item.

Also, a number of state and local Leagues have asked us to sign on to the following:

#### Proposed Concurrence by State and Local Leagues on Election Process

Background: Under Voting Rights/Citizen's Right to Vote in *Impact on Issues*, the only bolded statement of position is *The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed*. There are several pages of discussion but no specific position points on the election process itself. The discussion emphasizes that LWVUS has not committed to

any specific type or types of voting systems; it says that state/local Leagues should consult with LWVUS before taking a stand on any specific type.

# Proposed LWVUS Voter Representation / Election Process position – specific points Whether for single or multiple winner elections, the League supports election methods that:

- Encourage voter participation and voter engagement
- Encourage those with minority opinions to participate, including under-represented communities
- Are verifiable and auditable
- Promote access to voting
- Promote competitive elections
- Maximize effective votes/minimize "wasted" votes
- Promote sincere voting over strategic voting
- Discourage negative campaigning
- Encourage meaningful discussion of issues
- Require the winner to receive a majority of the votes for executive and other single seat offices
- Are compatible with acceptable ballotcasting methods, including vote-by-mail

### **LWVNM Board Recommendations per** 1/18/20 Board meeting:

- 1. Strike the bullet point 'Promote sincere voting over strategic voting.'.
- 2. Replace the bullet point 'Require the winner to receive a majority of the votes for executive and other single seat offices' with 'Strive for an election outcome that more accurately represents voter preferences' as proposed by LWVCO in its message to you and state leaders dated 1/17/20.

#### **Observer Corps Reports**

#### **County Council**

#### January 7

At the first meeting of the new year the Council re-elected Sara Scott as chair and chose Randall Ryti to be vice-chair.

The Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC) has been providing water and energy conservation outreach services to the Department of Public Utilities since 2016. As part of the consent agenda the Council approved increasing spending authority by \$200,000 and adding three years to the term of the existing agreement. The activities conducted by PEEC under the agreement include interactive class presentations, an annual water festival, and participation in Earth Day activities. The services include assistance in outreach efforts to educate and provide resources to home owners.

The Council voted to approve the sale of county-owned land at 1010 Central to Los Alamos Schools Credit Union (LASCU). Two previous proposals to purchase the property failed because the number of parking spots required for the size of proposed buildings restricted development. The LASCU design of 3,800 square feet will allow for adequate parking for the credit union and the Los Alamos Schools Foundation. The LASCU will try to keep as many trees on the lot as possible.

The Council also discussed potential changes to the management of profit transfers from the Joint Utility System Fund to the General Fund to enable the DPU to increase its reserves sufficiently to pay for needed infrastructure improvements.

Addie Jacobson

Barbara Calef

#### January 14

This was a special session for strategic planning.

County Priorities in 2019:

- Increasing the amount and types of housing options
- Enhancing support and opportunities for the local business environment
- Addressing long-term building vacancies in key areas of county
- Protecting and maintaining our open spaces, recreational and cultural attractions
- Supporting social services improvement
- Investing in infrastructure
- Planning for appropriate levels of county services

County Strategic Priorities for 2020 were not finalized during this meeting, but will be at a future meeting. From the discussion it would appear that the priorities for 2020 will remain basically the same as above, but may be worded a little differently or combined with different emphasis.

There was extensive discussion about housing. There was also discussion of all types of transportation, especially intermodal and parking (on street/garage) and the other priorities.

There were also items that were discussed as cross-cutting priorities:

- Communication and Transparency
- Sustainability
- Collaboration with LANL and regional entities
- Effective and efficient provision of county services
- Use of metrics for priorities

There was a discussion of tract A-8a, a parcel on DP Road of approximately 21 acres on the south side of DP Road just east of the Canyon Rim Trail. A portion of the parcel may have limited development possibilities. Council talked about how it should be developed and for whom. They also discussed whether to issue a Request for Interest before the Development Code has been revised.

Addie Jacobson

#### January 28

The Council approved the Power and Renewable Energy Sales Agreement between the County and Uniper Global Commodities North America LLC. This agreement provides a means toward achieving renewable energy goals of the county. It provides what is seen as a very competitive price for electricity for the County to purchase and addresses the issues of economies of scale. It also facilitates the use of intermittent resources (wind and solar) when purchasing renewable energy. It is anticipated that there will be a cost savings of 14.4% over 15 years with this agreement. This Los Alamos contract is Uniper's flagship transaction in the West.

The Council also approved a modification of the Energy Coordination Agreement (ECA) between the County and the DOE. The above power purchase agreement for renewable energy with Uniper is being included in the DOE agreement to share resources with the Lab.

Addie Jacobson

### **Board of Public Utilities January 15**

In the new year, Kathy Taylor was voted BPU Chair, Carrie Walker was voted vice chair. Randall Ryti (Council Vice Chair) is now Council Liaison for the BPU. Jack Richardson, DPU Deputy Manager, gave an update on the water utility condition. Lastly, BPU members

voted to recommend to Council a Purchase Power Agreement with Uniper Global Commodities North America for 15 megawatts of firm wind and solar energy for 15 years. The wind and solar facilities will be located throughout New Mexico. This energy is anticipated to come online in December 2021. (The Purchase Power Agreement will go to Council for approval on January 28).

The DPU is updating its Energy and Water Conservation Plan this year to meet state and federal requirements. As part of this process, the department is seeking volunteers to sit on a conservation committee. The committee will be tasked to develop initiatives to realize energy and water conservation goals. These initiatives will be recommended to the BPU. If adopted, they will be incorporated into the new energy and water conservation plan. More information is available on the DPU webpage at <a href="https://losalamosnm.us/government/departments/utilities/top\_features/dp\_u\_seeks\_volunteers\_for\_conservation\_committee">https://losalamosnm.us/government/departments/utilities/top\_features/dp\_u\_seeks\_volunteers\_for\_conservation\_committee</a>. DPU staff will notify those that were

Julie Williams-Hill

#### **Complete Count Committee**

selected and not selected by Feb. 14.

The January meeting of the Complete Count Committee revealed that the state government is asking the legislature to provide \$6.5 million to assist in the 2020 census. The national census media will have ads that the state can buy. New Mexico will also make their own media ads.

Most of the meeting was spent identifying ways to reach the major under-reached groups in our state: children 0-5 years, immigrants, renters, and post-doctoral students, among others. Members of the committee who represent major



LA Complete Count: League member Ann LePage is 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left. Photo by Jenn Bartram/ladailypost.com

populations, such as the L.A. School system, the Medical Center, LANL, various churches, etc., will be responsible for making contacts with those groups to educate and assist in census efforts. Census information will be available at major events in town.

One good number to remember is that 95% of homeowners respond to the census. It's that other 5% we need to contact so that New Mexico will not lose millions of dollars.

Postcards will be mailed on March 12 asking for census data. The "I Count New Mexico" website <a href="https://www.icountnm.gov/">https://www.icountnm.gov/</a> is available for other information, and when data begins to be returned to the census, daily response rates will be available.

Correction of January report: Only one member of a household needs to complete the form/phone call.

Ann LePage

#### January Lunch with a Leader: Ryn Herrmann

Chamber of Commerce Director Ryn Herrmann moved here in 1997 when her husband was a post doc and, she said, she is planning to retire here. She served on the Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board

and then worked as the communications director of the Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation (LACDC) as well as the creative district curator doing marketing and events. The LACDC is an umbrella for small economic development programs.

Herrmann was hired to be director of the Chamber of Commerce two years ago. The mission of the Chamber is to create a stronger local economy. It was started in 1963 and has about 300 members, 500 individuals. It is a non-profit organization, charging membership fees of \$115 for non-profits; for-profit members pay \$225. Most funds (~80%) come from rent for the Research Park.

The Chamber conducts the Chamberfest in June and holds Small Business Saturday in November. There are also monthly events: the Chamber breakfast at UNMLA, which is for members only. Christine Chandler will be giving a legislative update on March 12; housing will be the topic in April; the recycling program for restaurants in May. Coffee and Connections, which takes place at Pig and Fig is open to everyone. A local business hosts the community

at Business After Hours to advertise what's going on.

The Chamber also organizes ribbon cutting for new businesses, partners with the schools, and sends out a weekly email blast with updates on local events. They produce downtown maps, offer conference space and equipment,

> networking, and business listings. They also work with MainStreet

Project Y, across from Bathtub Row Brewing, offers coworking space for non-profits. Herrmann said that "trailer spouses need workspace." So, they offer meeting space, mail, WIFI, dedicated work spaces, 24-hour access, and can be rented in evenings or on weekends

Herrmann mentioned the Chamber advocacy on the White Rock Masterplan and helping the businesses on DP Rd. that are being affected by the construction on Rte. 502.

She said the work on the new roundabout is expected to be finished by December 2020. She announced that the second building at the Research Park will be breaking ground soon. It is going to house the New Mexico Consortium.

\*\*Barbara Calef\*\*



Ryn Herrmann. Photo by Karyl Ann Armbruster

#### Voices of Los Alamos: Stephanie Garcia Richard

State Land Commissioner (SLC) Stephanie Garcia Richard was the January speaker at the monthly program for Voices of Los Alamos. She explained that it is significant that she is the first female SLC. For instance, the majority of her leadership staff is female. Also, she terminated Jeffrey Epstein's lease, which had previously been renewed even though he was a convicted sex offender

As the trustee responsible for stewarding and protecting state trust lands, she has lots of autonomy. The vast majority of the income comes from oil and gas, and the terms of the leases are set out in statute. However, even if she could ban fracking, the need for funds for the schools, hospitals, and universities that are the beneficiaries of the trust would prevent her from taking that action. Nevertheless, Garcia Richard says she can ensure that the drilling is done responsibly. She adopted the federal rule for the 10-mile drilling ban around Chaco Culture National Historical Park. To reduce the consumption of fresh water by the drillers, she is considering an approach to incentivize the re-use of produced water (the by-product of fracking) rather than injecting it into the ground; and she is working to finalize a new Cultural Properties Rule that will require an archaeological survey and tribal consultation before drilling.

Garcia Richard is exploring other ways to raise revenue that are not as damaging as fossil fuel production. The State Land Office (SLC) is trying to incentivize the development of state land for renewables; the community solar bill would help tremendously if it were passed by the legislature. She also said that border trade is significant and mentioned hemp production and processing as potential generators of income.

Barbara Calef



State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard. Photo by Becky Shankland

#### Answers to Centennial Quiz

- 1. K
- 2 I
- 3 A
- 4. D
- 5 E
- 6. E
- 7. B
- 8. C
- -
- 9. J
- 10. I
- 11. L
- 12. I
- 13. G
- 14. F
- 15. H

#### Membership List

Here is our current list of members. Be sure to let us know if you see any errors.

Lew & Marge Agnew Esta Lee Albright

Rosemary & Marv Alme

McIlwaine Archer Karyl Ann Armbruster

Ginny Bell Jody Benson George Best Ann Beyer

Amy & Ed Birnbaum Judith Buckingham Barbara Calef Helen Carpenter Pat Casados

Christine & George Chandler

Jean Dewart Marilyn Doolen Jill Forman

Rebecca Chaiken

Rosmarie & Paul Frederickson

Elena Georgi Suzie Havemann Jeri Hertzman John Hopkins Jeffrey Howell

Elaine & Brian Jacobs Adelaide (Addie) Jacobson

Lynn & Mark Jones Yvonne & Chick Keller

Naishing Key Tracy Kneisler Barbara Lemmick Ann LePage Josip Loncaric JoAnn Lysne

Judy & Don Machen Jennifer Macke Wendy Marcus

Caroline (Cas) Mason

Pat McCormick Tracy McFarland Nikolajs Mezins Ellen Mills

Jeannette (JJ) Mortensen

Joyce Nickols Anne Nobile Dave North Cristina Olds Felicia Orth Akkana Peck Judy Prono

Dorothy (Dotty) Reilly Dody & Jack Richardson Susannah Rousculp

Randall Ryti Eduardo Santiago

Charlotte (Charlie) Sartor

Nancy Savoia

Richard & Katie Sayre

Sara Scott

Becky and Tom Shankland

Pete Sheehey
Jane Sherwood
Kurt Steinhaus
Margie Stockton
Wendy Swanson
Lois Thompson
Janice Trujillo
Leslie Wallstrom
Alahna Weller
Sandra West

Kyle & Mike Wheeler

Helena Whyte
Shelly Wiemann
Robert Williams
Julie Williams-Hill
Ginger Young
Joyce Zaugg

### 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 TaylorSecretary: 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

• Director of Special Projects: Addie Jacobson

County Council Observers: LWVLA Board

• Newsletter Editor: JoAnn Lysne

• Nominating Committee Chair: Ellen Mills

• 2nd Nominating Committee Member: JoAnn Lysne

• Budget Committee: Julie Williams-Hill, Ed Birnbaum, and Kathy Taylor.

If you would like to join the League, fill out and submit the membership form on page 15.



LWVLA Board of Directors 2019-2020: (top row, left to right) Leslie Wallstrom, Julie Williams-Hill, Akkana Peck, Lynn Jones, Amy Birnbaum, Karyl Ann Armbruster, Ellen Mills, Jody Benson; (bottom row, left to right) Kathleen Taylor, Barbara Calef, Rebecca Shankland, and Rebecca Chaiken. Courtesy photo.



### 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
	ewsletter Update as an electronic file, saving us postage
OR Check here if you prefer the n	ewsletter mailed in hard copy.
Check here to receive occasional	friendly reminders of upcoming events by e-mail.
•	cks for memberships and contributions should be I all are now tax-deductible. Let us know if you'd
Single membership: \$45	
Household membership (two+ peo	ple at the same address): \$65
Single Sustaining membership: \$7	5
Household Sustaining membership	o (two+ people at the same address): \$95
Student membership: \$0 (must be	
Contribution to support League wo	ork: \$
<b>Interests and Ways to Help the I</b>	League (check as many as apply)
Topics of Interest	Ways to Help with League Activities
Affordable Housing	Set up Refreshments at Forums
Local Government	Observer Corps (County Council, DPU, etc.)
Education	Nominating Committee
Elections, Voting Rights	Voter Guides Committee
Water Issues	Voter Registration
Land Use	Publicity
Health Care	Website, Social Media
Money in Politics	Newsletter
Sustainability	Membership
Living Wage	Fund-raising
Public Transportation	Budget Committee for LWV
Environment	Lunch with a Leader (assistance)
Other topics (please suggest):	Fund-raising Committee for LWV
	Participate in board meetings or join 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

In This Issue	Page
Calendar	1
Lunch with a Leader: What is the Status of Citizens United?	1
LWVLA Proposes Proclamation to Recognize 100 Years of Women's Suffrage and 73 Years of LWVLA	1
Co-President's Message: Seven Reasons to Participate in the Centennial of Women's Suffrage	3
Centennial Quiz	3
Looking for a Few New Board Members for 2020-2021!	4
Report on the 2020 Legislative Preview	5
Welcome, New Members!	7
Program Planning Meeting	7
Observer Corps Reports	8
Complete Count Committee	10
January Lunch with a Leader: Ryn Herrmann	11
Voices of Los Alamos: Stephanie Garcia Richard	11
Membership List	13
LWVLA Board of Directors 2019-2020	14