



UPDATE

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

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www.lwvlosalamos.org

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Calendar

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| August 14 | Rodeo Parade, LWV meet at the Municipal Building on Central, 10 a.m. |
| August 19 | Lunch with a Leader, Amanda White, Zoom, noon |
| August 21 | “Women’s Votes, Voters’ Voices” exhibit opens at the Mesa Public Library Step Up Gallery |
| August 23 | Meneese Wall presents “We Demand the Right to Vote,” Zoom, 6 p.m. |
| August 26 | Board Meeting, Zoom, noon |
| August 30 | Sylvia Ramos Cruz presents “Ganaron el Voto: Woman Suffrage and Suffragists in New Mexico,” Mesa Public Library and via Zoom, 6 p.m. |
| September 16 | Deborah Blanche presents “La Nina: The Story of Nina Otero-Warren,” Zoom, 6 p.m. |

Lunch with a Leader: Amanda White

This month’s Lunch with a Leader will be on Thursday, August 19 from noon-1p.m. via Zoom. We will be hearing from Amanda White, who is the Monitoring and Technical Services Program Manager for Tech 2 Solutions, a subcontractor that supports the N3B Water Program. She will be discussing N3B’s Storm Water Monitoring Under LANL’s Individual Permit.

White has over 20 years of experience in water resources, water quality, and hydrology, including 14 years at LANL. Prior to joining N3B she worked for LANL as an Environmental Scientist responsible for field execution of surface water monitoring.

She earned her BA in civil engineering at Old Dominion University as well as her MA and PhD in civil engineering from the University of Illinois.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

Co-President's Message: The Never-ending Conflicts over Voting Rights

Who are we? The League of Women Voters. Not Women Taxpayers. Not Women Legislators. Not Women Foreign Policy Makers. Not Women Judges. In 1920, when the League of Women Voters was founded, voting was clearly recognized as the necessary basis for other political action.

In our upcoming library exhibit, “Women’s Votes, Voters’ Voices,” we can observe an uncanny parallel between the long history of women’s struggle to gain the right to vote and Los Alamos County’s struggle to become a recognized, voting part of New Mexico. What is the similarity?

For women demanding the right to vote—from Abigail Adams in 1776 to Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s Declaration of Rights and Sentiments in 1848 and to the Silent Sentinels in the 1910s—it was a long, arduous process. Even in the 20th century, suffragists were called “genderless” and “anarchists,” were attacked by bystanders in that famous 1913 parade with hundreds of women dressed in white, were ridiculed in cartoons, and most egregiously put in jail and force-fed.

Again in 1947 it was women, led by the League of Women Voters, who demanded that Los Alamos be recognized as a part of New Mexico and that its citizens be given the right to vote. The issue here was minor compared to fighting for the 19th Amendment. Simply, Los Alamos was legally part of the federal government, not New Mexico. But the US Congress quickly corrected that issue, and we gained the right to vote in New Mexico.

Now, strangely, after we had assumed that a modern democracy would have solved voting issues—no more exclusion by sex or race, no more poll taxes, no more literacy tests, (but still restrictions on voting by felons)--we are facing voting rights issues again in 2021. While many states are creating opportunities to make voting easier, legislators in other states are making voting harder. With bills proposing to limit the number of days and locations for voting, creating difficult identification requirements, expanding voter purges, and even banning snacks and water for voters waiting in line—and a Supreme Court that may approve these restrictions—suffrage is an issue for which the League must still continue to fight.

Becky Shankland



Women's Votes, Voters' Voices

August 21 to September 21

Come check out this exhibit in Mesa Public Library's Step Up Gallery celebrating women's right to vote.

Discover all the challenges that women and others faced for more than 100 years.

Learn about New Mexico's own Nina Otero-Warren (soon to be on the new US quarter), how Los Alamos became a county, and how we got the vote.

Exhibit created by



Observer Corps Reports

County Council

July 6

This County Council meeting was held in person and was open to the public; it was also available via Zoom.

The Council declared July 6-11 as "Los Alamos ScienceFest" week, and heard reports from both the Community Development Advisory Board and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Our now County Manager, Steven Lynne, gave a brief overview of the county's Local Economic

Development Act (LEDA) program. The three major exceptions to New Mexico's anti-donation clause are LEDA, Affordable Housing, and Indigent Health Care. LEDA allows local governments to embark on public private partnerships that promote economic development. Previously, the state LEDA definitions restricted LEDA aid for retail operations from competing with existing retail businesses. The new state definitions eliminated those restrictions, and our county plans to change our definitions to conform to the state's language.

Lynn Jones

July 13

The Los Alamos County Council met in person at the Municipal Building. They heard a presentation from Dekker/Perich/Sabatini about the process for updating Chapter 18 of the County Code, also known as the Nuisance Code. The Community Development Advisory Board will act as a steering committee; there will also be a project website, survey, online comment and public meetings. The Council was asked to provide priorities, issues, and concerns about the current code. Councilor Robinson reported that he recommended:

- A graded approach where health and safety are first and aesthetic is last.
- Gathering information on what the public truly feels is a nuisance worthy of a crime.
- Making the code clearer for everyone.
- Evaluation of a complaint- versus compliance-driven system.

Later in the evening Council Chair Randall Rytty explained the process the Council followed in their search for a new County Manager. Following a robust discussion, Steve Lynne was appointed as the new County Manager by a vote of 6-1.

from a report by James Robinson in the Los Alamos Reporter

July 27

Council approved an ordinance to change the zoning map, which would allow a section of vacant, County right-of-way property on Trinity Drive and Canyon View to be converted into a parking lot for an adjacent apartment complex and business building. The Council also approved an ordinance to amend the definitions in the Local Economic Development Plan, specifically as it relates to “retail businesses.” The new definitions conform with recent changes in state law and will provide additional flexibility for grants or loans for businesses under the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA).

Council considered and voted to stay in the Carbon Free Power Project, a proposed nuclear generating facility to be built in Idaho utilizing small modular reactor technology. The go-no-go vote came to the Council since the project was scaled down to six small modular reactors, reducing the total capacity to 462 megawatts and increasing the target price from \$55 to \$58 per megawatt hour. The Board of Public Utilities and the County Council will have three more opportunities in the future to vote on whether the CFPP is still a project that the County wishes to pursue.

Julie Williams-Hill

Board of Public Utilities

Board of Public Utilities (BPU) met on July 21st in council chambers with members of the public joining virtually and in person. Board members voted to recommend to the County Council that the County of Los Alamos should continue its participation in the Carbon Free Power Project (CFPP). The CFPP is a proposed project to construct a nuclear generating facility in Idaho using small modular reactor technology developed by NuScale. CFPP project

participants provided a new off-ramp for governing bodies since the scope of the project was recently reduced from twelve small modular reactors to six. This scales down the proposed facility’s capacity to 462 megawatts, but also increases the target cost from \$55 to \$58 per megawatt hour. The reason provided for the reduction in the nuclear plant’s capacity was NuScale’s announcement that the capacity for each small modular reactor was uprated to 77 megawatts. If the project had continued with twelve small modular reactors, the total capacity of the CFPP would have increased from 720 to 924 megawatts, which project participants indicated was more than what they needed. With the BPU members’ vote to recommend the County continue in the CFPP, the project will go to the County Council on July 27 for consideration. Also on the agenda, Department of Public Utilities’ staff presented an update to BPU members on the condition of the electric distribution system.

Julie Williams-Hill

Technology and the Pandemic

A month ago it looked as though the pandemic restrictions would be relaxed, and the League began to consider what we had learned during the past year-and-a-half about community participation. For people with internet access, meetings by Zoom offer the opportunity to be involved without leaving home and allow the League to invite speakers from out of town. However, meeting remotely does not permit us to engage in one-on-one conversations with the speakers or neighbors. Therefore, our plan was to switch to hybrid, allowing those who wish to attend in person while others are on Zoom.

We were dismayed by our first experience with this approach. The Los Alamos School Board

asked us to conduct a candidate forum in July to introduce the applicants for the District 5 seat vacated by Dawn Jalbert. We were told that the meeting would be hybrid and that LAPS was experienced with the technology. League members volunteered to help, with Felicia Orth moderating the forum and Addie Jacobson acting as the time-keeper. Quite a few members of the public filled the School Board Room before 7 p.m. on July 19 and the meeting started on time. Two of the three candidates participated virtually. Following an introduction, the first candidate began her 2-minute speech but failed to stop when the stop sign was raised or to respond to a verbal command. We learned that her screen was set on speaker view; she could see only herself and no one on Zoom could hear the moderator or the time-keeper. It took half an hour for the LAPS technicians to get the system working properly.

After that experience we are somewhat reluctant to transition quickly to hybrid. We are looking forward to watching the Mesa Library talk by Liddie Martinez on August 5 because it will be hybrid. Meanwhile, until we are confident of success, we will continue to use Zoom.

Barbara Calef

July Lunch with a Leader: Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver

Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver told League members that she is proud of how far NM has come since she became a county clerk in 2007. The 2020 election was the best run, best managed election; it was “wildly successful,” she said. Online registration was very helpful as were the changes made in SB 4, the bill passed during the First Special Session in 2020. We also benefit from our all-paper ballot system, one



NM Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver speaks at the July Lunch with a Leader. Screenshot by Barbara Calef.

month of early voting, and same-day voter registration. Currently her office is preparing to install permanent drop boxes for absentee ballots throughout the state.

Unfortunately, most of the changes in SB 4 expired on December 31, 2020 and the legislation to codify them failed in the 2021 legislative session. As a result, “we are moving backward for the 2021 regular local election.” The absentee ballot outer envelope will be more complex, the cure (mandating that county clerks contact voters who have not properly filled out the outer envelope) is gone, and consultation with tribes is gone. However, Toulouse Oliver is confident the governor will put the matter on her call for the next session.

She also wants provisions for access to the ballot box for formerly incarcerated felons, an election day holiday, and measures to improve automatic voter registration.

Speaking of federal law, the Secretary of State said that “Our democracy is in trouble” as state legislatures roll back the right to vote. She is most concerned about penalties against election officials for alleged violations of the elections code. She warned that the lives of election officials have been threatened and they are quitting. We must push back. The For the People Act died due to the threat of the filibuster, so we need to get the John Lewis Voting Rights Act passed. If the filibuster has to go to pass the VRA, it has to go. She suggested that the Leagues ask candidates if they are willing to take on reform to democratize congressional rules.

During the question-and-answer period League member John Bartlit expressed a desire for more communication across party lines. To get started, he proposed that the pros and cons of voter ID be debated by the high school debate team. Toulouse Oliver agreed enthusiastically, noting that she had come to Los Alamos for a speech and debate tournament as a student.

Barbara Calef

Join the Rodeo Parade to Celebrate the Centennial of the 19th Amendment

League members will be marching in the August 14th Los Alamos County Parade starting at 10 a.m. The League invites all members to participate in the parade to honor the dedicated work of the early Suffragists. Suffragist sashes will be provided. White clothing is traditional but not required.

Any League member who would like to march in the parade should contact Ellen Mills at: [efmillsnm\(AT\)gmail\(DOT\)com](mailto:efmillsnm(AT)gmail(DOT)com)

Ellen Mills

League of Women Voters Exhibit at Mesa Public Library

You may have heard of Susan B. Anthony, but have you heard of Nina Otero-Warren or Alice Paul? They, too, were prominent suffragists who fought for women's right to vote.

“Women's Votes, Voters' Voices” is an exhibit produced by the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment. The exhibit, delayed a year because of pandemic closures, tells the stories of the fight for voting rights in our nation, state, and county. It focuses on the numerous endeavors and successes of the League of Women Voters at the state and local levels. It includes the important role played by the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos to gain full suffrage for county residents.

It will be on display from August 21 through September 21 in the Step Up Gallery at Mesa Public Library.

Come learn about the suffragists who helped gain voting rights for American women and learn about the members of the local League of Women Voters who led county citizens in formulating a governing charter, in getting their own voting rights, and in improving living conditions on The Hill.

- See mannequins dressed in vintage clothing
- Take a selfie with a suffragist in jail
- Put in a piece of the jigsaw puzzle that shows the famous suffragists
- Play the *Votes for Women* board game
- Take home a page from the coloring book about the 1963 utilities vote
- Watch the slide show, and

- Enter a drawing to win a suffragist sash or a poster

Three talks about women's suffrage will complement the exhibit:

We Demand the Right to Vote: An Evening with Meneese Wall, artist, illustrator, and author, August 23, 6 p.m., by Zoom. Register on the Mesa Public Library event calendar.

Ganaron el Voto: Woman Suffrage and Suffragists in New Mexico, with Sylvia Ramos Cruz, retired general surgeon, writer, and women's rights activist. August 30, 6 p.m., by Zoom and in-person at Mesa Public Library. Register on the Mesa Public Library event calendar.

La Nina: The Story of Nina Otero-Warren, presented by Deborah Blanche in a Chautauqua dramatization, September 16, 6 p.m., by Zoom. Sponsored by Palomita Productions; co-sponsored by the Los Alamos Historical Society. Register on the Mesa Public Library event calendar.

[For further information, contact [rebecca.shankland\(AT\)gmail\(DOT\)com](mailto:rebecca.shankland(AT)gmail(DOT)com) or [felicity.fonseca\(AT\)lacnm\(DOT\)us](mailto:felicity.fonseca(AT)lacnm(DOT)us).]

LWVLA Board of Directors 2021-2022

Officers:

- Co-president: Barbara Calef
- Co-president: Rebecca Shankland
- 1st Vice-President: *Unfilled*
- 2nd Vice-President: Ellen Mills
- Secretary: Rebecca Chaiken
- Treasurer: Rosmarie Frederickson

Directors:

- BPU Observer: Julie Williams-Hill
- Director at Large: Addie Jacobson
- Director at Large: Felicia Orth
- Director at Large: Akkana Peck
- Fundraising: Ellen Mills
- Lunch with a Leader: Karyl Ann Armbruster
- Publicity: Jody Benson
- Reservations: Amy Birnbaum
- Voter Services: Lynn Jones

Off-board Directors:

- Arrangements: Wendy Swanson
- County Council Observers: LWVLA Board & League Members
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- Newsletter Editor: JoAnn Lysne
- Nominations: Ellen Mills, Leslie Wallstrom, & JoAnn Lysne
- Special Projects: Maxine McReynolds
- Webmaster: Julie Williams-Hill

If you would like to join the League, fill out and submit the membership form on page 9, or visit www.lwvlosalamos.org.

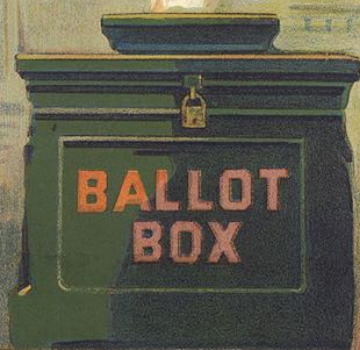
Women's Votes Voters' Voices

an exhibit
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LWW

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF LOS ALAMOS

August 21 –
September 21, 2021



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MEMBERSHIP FORM



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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 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. Let us know if you'd like a tax-deductible statement. If you prefer to pay via Paypal, visit www.lwvlosalamos.org.

____ Single membership: \$45

____ Household membership (two+ people at the same address): \$70

____ Single Sustaining membership: \$75

____ Household Sustaining membership (two+ people at the same address): \$95

____ Student membership: \$0 (must be 16 or over)

____ Contribution to support League work: \$_____

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, BPU, etc.)
- ____ Nominating Committee
- ____ Voter Guides 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 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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