

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF LOS ALAMOS

UPDATE

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos
P.O. Box 158, Los Alamos, NM 87544
www.LWVLosAlamos.org
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Calendar

December 5	Rep. Christine Chandler: Expected Gun Safety Legislation, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
December 7	Board Meeting, Unitarian Church, noon
December 14	Nuclear Issues Educational Meetings, Zoom, noon and 6:30 p.m. (choose one).
December 15	Dinner with a Leader, County Manager Steve Lynne, Zoom, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
December 16	Nuclear Issues Consensus Meeting, Zoom, 1 p.m.
December 19	Nuclear Issues Consensus Meeting, Zoom, 6 p.m.
January 4	Legislative Preview, Fuller Lodge, 7 p.m. (6:30 for refreshments)
January 6	LWVNM Advocacy Workshop, Zoom, 10-noon
January 11	LWVNM Legislative Preparation, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
January 16	NM Legislature convenes at noon
January 18	Lunch With a Leader, Unitarian Church, speaker TBD, noon
January 24	LWVNM Legislative Reception, Rio Chama, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
January 25	League Day at the Legislature, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

December Dinner with a Leader: County Manager Steve Lynne

On Thursday, December 14, we will have *Dinner with a Leader* from 6:30-7:30 p.m. via Zoom with Steve Lynne, Los Alamos County Manager. Lynne holds a Master's Degree in Accounting and worked with public accounting firms in Florida and New Mexico before coming to Los Alamos.

After joining Los Alamos County in February 1996, Lynne spent the first 14 years with the County's Finance division, rising to Chief Financial Officer in 2000. In 2010, he was promoted to Administrative Services Director/Chief Financial Officer responsible for the performance of the Information Technology, Finance, Procurement and Materials Management, and Risk Management divisions. In February 2011 he was appointed to one of two Acting Assistant County Administrator positions to assist in the operational oversight of all departments and coordination of several of the County's major projects. Later he was promoted to Deputy Manager, and in that position, Lynne had oversight of the Administrative Services Department, as well as the Community Services Department. In July 2021, he was appointed County Manager.

Lynne and his wife, Suzanne, raised their kids in Los Alamos. As a resident and a public servant, he believes it is his job to enhance the quality of life in Los Alamos by effectively implementing the County's strategic goals and policies.

He has announced his retirement after 28 years of service and his last day will be March 1, 2024. He and Suzanne love Los Alamos, have no plans to leave, and are looking forward to being retired together here.

He will be ready to answer your questions but will talk about accomplishments, the County's future, and current priorities.



*Los Alamos County Manager
Steven Lynne. Photo by Maire
O'Neill/losalamosreporter.com*

Karyl Ann Armbruster

Welcome, New Member!

New member **Jess Taylor** writes:

I've lived in Los Alamos for 14 years, also having lived in CA, CO, NY, WA, and CT (in that order).

I absolutely love it here, I never dreamed I could find a job where I could live in the mountains! I work remotely for a distributor of network security, managing the Northeast territory and a sales team of seven. I work from home and spend a good amount of time in NY, Boston and New England. I am married, with one daughter and three cats. This is my first time volunteering with the League of Women Voters, although I am experienced at volunteering and fundraising for numerous animal rights organizations over the years (APNM.org currently). Both my husband and I love to entertain, he is a beer judge for the Great American Beer Festival, so always has an opinion about food pairings. Our favorite shared pastimes are cooking classes, frisbee golf (he wins), cribbage (I win) and travel. I am passionate about teaching kids about finance, investing, and business, so I also volunteer teaching Junior Achievement classes to 5th and 6th graders 4x/year. My linkedin profile is here: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessicataylorprofile/>. I'm excited at the prospect of being of service to our community by providing voters with information and access to make voting available to everyone!!

How to Save Energy and Have Fun!

A recent trip to Mexico started me thinking about how a small town manages to crowd lots of people into its hustling, busy, friendly, jolly downtown--shoppers for groceries, clothing, souvenirs; diners for meals or treats; fun-seekers, sight-seers. Do they have huge underground garages for parking cars?

No—their answer is small, smaller, smallest. *Smallest* are the scooters and bicycles, both people-powered and electric. *Smaller* are the various motorcycles and motorbikes that weave in and out of traffic. And *small* are the ubiquitous electric golf carts that can transport families of up to five plus their groceries or beach equipment (yes, room for surf boards, paddle boards, and even beach umbrellas, though not all at once).

Of course, cars and vans also make their way around the central plaza, but it's easier for them because so much of their competition is small. And unlike the small vehicles, they have trouble parking.

So that's Mexico. What about Los Alamos? Over the last five or ten years I've noticed a pleasing increase in small, smaller, smallest. Kids now ride to school or games on bicycles, roller blades, scooters, electric scooters. Adults are enjoying all of these plus electric bikes.

I remember seeing Rosie Colgate riding from her White Rock home to the grocery store in an electric cart, maybe a golf cart. And, of course, electric carts are already widely used here at the golf course.

Despite current disapproval from the Motor Vehicle Division, my hope for the future is to see electric carts tootling around White Rock and Los Alamos, saving energy, saving space, encouraging fun.



*Golf carts share the packed parking spaces with motorcycles and cars.
Photo by Stephen Shankland*

Becky Shankland

Legislative Preview on January 4

The LWV-AAUW Legislative Preview will take place in Fuller Lodge on Thursday, January 4 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Come at 6:30 for refreshments and to socialize.

Our legislators—Representative Christine Chandler, Senator Leo Jaramillo, and Senator Roberto Gonzales — will speak. In addition, Representative Susan Herrera (District 41) will discuss the changes proposed for modernizing the New Mexico Legislature.

All of the speakers will answer questions from the audience.

Barbara Calef

Upcoming LWVNM Programs

- On Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m. . Representative Christine Chandler will discuss gun legislation that may be introduced in the 2024 Legislative Session on Zoom.
- Nuclear Issues Educational Meetings, Zoom, Thursday 12/14/23, noon and 6:30 p.m.
- Nuclear Issues Consensus Meetings Saturday 12/16/23 at 1 p.m. and Tuesday 12/19/23 6 p.m. (Plan to attend one.)
- The annual Advocacy Workshop will be conducted on January 6 from 10 to noon on Zoom. The speakers will be Senator Carrie Hamblen (D) Representative Jason Harper (R), and lobbyist Linda Siegle.
- League Days at the Legislature begin on January 24 with the Legislative Reception at Rio Chama from 5:30-7:30 and continue the next day with talks in the State Land Office from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Observer Corps Report – County Council – November 14, 2023

Strategic Leadership Plan, LARES Plan

The hybrid session was attended by Chair Denise Derkacs, Vice Chair Theresa Cull, and Councilors Melanee Hand, Suzie Havemann, David Reagor, and Randall Ryti. Councilor Keith Lepsch arrived towards the end of the meeting. Our observer report is based on discussion during the meeting and documentation provided in the full agenda package.

County Council 2024 Strategic Leadership Plan

Council voted 5–1 to approve the updated 2024 Strategic Leadership Plan with an amendment to add the pursuit of more efficient long-term management solutions for solid

waste generated in the County as a priority under the Environmental Stewardship goal. Councilor Reagor voted in opposition of approval and Councilor Lepsch was absent.

Purpose of the Strategic Plan

Council, with input from County staff and community members, updated the 2023 strategic goals and priorities and adopted five goals and 22 priorities for 2024. These address essential government functions and issues important to the community.

County staff are responsible for defining concrete actions in updated management action plans (MAPs) to address each of the adopted priorities and for communicating progress throughout the year. Each priority will be assigned measurable objectives based on the MAPs and other approved plans. The updated MAPs will be included with the agenda item on Budget Guidance in the Council agenda, anticipated for the December 12, 2023 Council meeting.

The vision statement, five goals, and corresponding 22 priority areas of the updated

plan are reproduced below. [For comparison, the 2023 Strategic Leadership Plan was reproduced in the March 2023 LWVLA *Update*.] Updates include a specific reference to Tribal relations under Quality Governance and add suggestions from the LARES Working Group under Environmental Stewardship.

Adopted Vision Statement

Los Alamos is a world-renowned community where discovery and innovation are inspired by its dramatic history. Extraordinary educational, recreational, and cultural opportunities abound in a vibrant and welcoming small-town atmosphere situated in a magnificent mountain setting.

Strategic Goal #1. Quality Governance

Quality governance is participatory, consensus-oriented, transparent, accountable, effective, efficient, and responsive to present and future needs of stakeholders. County priorities are:

- **Communication and Engagement.** Inform, engage, and solicit feedback from the community and boards and commissions on County projects, policies, and priorities to promote a culture of open communication and collaboration and foster exceptional customer service.
- **Intergovernmental, Tribal, and Regional Relations.** Collaborate and problem-solve with the County's major employers; community partner organizations; neighboring Pueblos; and regional, state, and national governmental entities.
- **Fiscal Stewardship.** Maintain fiscal sustainability, transparency, and compliance with applicable budgetary and financial regulatory standards.

Strategic Goal #2. Operational Excellence

Operational excellence involves having structures, processes, standards, and oversight in place to ensure that effective services are efficiently delivered within available resources and that services continuously improve.

- **Effective, Efficient, and Reliable Services.** Deliver customer-focused, accessible, reliable, and sustainable services to the community through sound financial management, collaborative decision-making, and efficient implementation.
- **Infrastructure Asset Management.** Evaluate the County's assets and infrastructure and prioritize funding to first maintain and protect those investments and second to inform new investments.
- **Employee Recruitment and Retention.** Attract and employ diverse and highly qualified staff; retain staff through development opportunities, compensation, and benefits; and promote staff to address increasingly complex challenges.

Strategic Goal #3. Economic Vitality

Economic vitality encompasses the ability of the community to diversify, develop, grow, and sustain the many elements necessary for a local economy to flourish.

- **Housing.** Increase the capacity for new housing development and the amount and variety of housing types to meet the needs of a changing and growing population, particularly middle- and lower-income households.
- **Local Business.** Encourage the retention of existing businesses, facilitate the startup of new businesses, and assist in opportunities for business growth.
- **Downtown Revitalization.** Revitalize the downtown areas of Los Alamos and White Rock by facilitating development opportunities in accordance with the downtown master plans.
- **Tourism and Special Events.** Sponsor special events, support major employer and community events, and promote tourism by enhancing amenities, utilizing facilities and contract services, and encouraging overnight stays.
- **Community Broadband.** Provide community broadband as a basic essential service that will enable reliable high-speed

internet services throughout the County at competitive pricing

Strategic Goal #4. Quality of Life

Quality of life is a reflection of general well-being and the degree to which community members are healthy, comfortable, welcomed, included, and able to enjoy the activities of daily living.

- Health, Wellbeing, and Social Services. Improve access to behavioral, mental, and physical health and social services and amenities to address identified issues and promote wellbeing in the region.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity. Promote diversity, equity, and inclusivity through community awareness training, targeted events, and expanded opportunities for diverse interests.
- Mobility. Improve and expand access to, and all-ability accommodations for, alternative modes of travel including public transit, cycling, and walking amenities and services.
- Educational, Historical, and Cultural Amenities. Promote educational and cultural opportunities in coordination with community partners, and provide for the preservation and restoration of historic buildings and the protection of archaeological sites.
- Open Space, Parks, and Recreation. Manage County open space and maintain and improve parks and recreation facilities, trails, and amenities as defined by adopted plans and approved projects.
- Public Safety. Ensure overall community safety through proactive and sustained implementation of police, fire, hazard mitigation, and emergency response plans.

Strategic Goal #5. Environmental Stewardship

Environmental stewardship is the responsible use and protection of the natural environment through active participation in conservation efforts and sustainable practices in coordination with community and organizational partners.

- Natural Resource Protection . Take actions to protect the wildlife and wildland interface, safeguard water, and mitigate tree loss in the community.
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction. Establish targets for achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and integrate sustainability and resiliency practices into County policies and operations.
- Carbon-Neutral Energy Supply. Achieve carbon neutrality in electrical supply by 2040 through diversified carbon-free electric sourcing, and phase out natural gas supply by 2070 through energy-efficient, all-electric buildings.
- Water Conservation. Reduce potable water use and increase non-potable water use and water harvesting for irrigation where suitable.
- Waste Management. Manage waste responsibly by diverting waste from landfills through recycling, re-use, composting and waste reduction programs and zero-waste education campaigns to promote a circular economy, *and by pursuing more efficient long-term disposal or management solutions for waste generated in the County* [draft language].

Council discussion

Discussion focused on priorities listed under the goal of Environmental Stewardship. As a result of Council concern about long-term waste, the clause shown in italics was added to the Waste Management priority. The other issues discussed were the feasibility of achieving the goal for carbon-neutral energy supply by 2040 and justification for prioritizing reduction in the use of natural gas.

An extended technical discussion ensued when Councilor Reagor raised objections about the County's carbon-neutral energy supply goal. His objection had two facets: whether the goal could be met by 2040, as stated, and whether any date at all should be specified, given the current chaotic state of the electrical power industry.

"With the collapse of the CFPP (Carbon Free Power Project)," said Councilor Reagor, "I wonder where everybody thinks you're going to get carbon-free power. . . . You can't have reliable power with a low carbon content and the cost numbers that they (CFPP managers) promised."

Philo Shelton, Department of Public Utilities (DPU) Director, outlined DPU's efforts to secure replacement power and commented on the feasibility of achieving a carbon-neutral energy supply by 2040 in view of the collapse of the CFPP. Among other projects, the DPU has been working on participating in the Foxtail Flats Solar Project in San Juan County, NM which connects into Four Corners at the location of the retired San Juan Generating Station. "It's a major trading hub for power at that location," he said, "due to its vast infrastructure, so it's able to tie onto existing transmission there."

DPU is also working with UAMPS to study the feasibility of moving geothermal energy in Nevada onto the grid and to the Four Corners where we receive our power on PNM's system. Another project is exploring the feasibility of a natural gas combustion turbine at the Four Corners, and yet another is a solar project with San Ildefonso Pueblo.

Several councilors asked Shelton whether it was still realistic to meet the carbon-neutral goal by 2040. He responded that the projects he had mentioned were scheduled for completion prior to 2030. However, he also noted that the last piece of the County's energy portfolio was the coal-fired plant in Laramie, Wyoming, which is due to retire in 2040-2042. "If we hold onto it until its retirement, we wouldn't meet the goal," he said.

Councilor Rytty added that "I would just note that one of our major customers is the Department of Energy, and they have a much more stringent goal than we have for carbon-neutral energy production."

Councilors Hand and Derkacs expressed the desire to retain the 2040 date for a carbon-neutral energy supply.

Councilor Reagor also voiced his objection to giving priority to a reduction in the use of

natural gas. He felt it was unnecessary and would result in very expensive utilities.

LARES Working Group

Council voted 6–1 (Councilor Reagor in opposition) to approve the LARES (Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy and Sustainability) Working Group recommendations for accelerating County carbon reduction initiatives and directed the County Manager to return by the first Council meeting in 2024 with action plans to implement each of the recommendations.

Background

Council accepted the LARES Final Report in February 2022 and funded two of its budget request items during the FY23 budget process: the Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Study and the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

County departments and boards have incorporated many of the LARES recommendations into their FY24 work plans, while others are contingent on the outcome of the Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Study and Climate Action Plan.

Subsequently a LARES Working Group was established to review the LARES recommendations and extract items that could be worked on in advance of the Climate Action Plan, subject to Council approval. The LARES Working Group consists of County Council members Theresa Cull, Suzie Havemann and Randall Rytty, Board of Public Utilities member Robert Gibson, and Sustainability Manager Angelica Gurule.

LARES Recommendations

The 14 recommendations selected by the LARES Working Group focus on initiatives that will accelerate carbon emission reduction in County operations and mitigate climate change.

Overarching Policy Statements

- E-1: Formalize the BPU/DPU and Los Alamos County Council goal to be a net-zero carbon electricity supplier by 2035.

- GR-1: Establish net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as a long-term goal for Los Alamos, both the community (exclusive of LANL) and its government.
- NG-1: Set a community goal to reduce natural gas use by at least 2% per year.

Partnerships

- GR-7: Form a partnership with LANL and the LA Public Schools with the specific intention of collaboration on greenhouse gas reduction.

County Policy

- CP-4: Strengthen the County's environmental purchasing policy.
- NG-6: Set a cut-off date for new natural gas hook-ups and new electric resistance heating installations, effectively requiring electric heat pumps. Encourage substitution of heat pumps when gas-fired furnaces and boilers are replaced.
- TM-5: Revise and implement a County-wide "no idling" policy with shaded parking options.
- TM-9: Convert municipal small engines, lawn/garden equipment, and golf carts, to be fossil fuel free within ten years.
- WCNR-2: Reduce consumption-associated greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable purchasing and consumption/disposal of food, goods, and services.
- CP-3: Educate property owners on potential energy-saving renovations to their buildings.
- NG-11: Make energy audits and other relevant information available to property owners through County government.
- TM-3: Increase publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- TM-4: Increase the number of electric vehicles in the County fleet by at least two per year, eventually making 100% of light duty (passenger cars and trucks) plug-in electric.

Advocacy Priorities

- CP-2: Advocate for change or clarification of the NM Anti-Donation Clause to allow local governments to provide incentives for energy reduction projects.

Council discussion

Councilor Havermann expressed strong support for approval of the Working Group's recommendations. Councilor Ryti proposed that the Overarching Policy Statements be removed from the list of recommendations because they were already stated in Council's Strategic Plan. Chair Derkacs agreed.

Councilor Reagor's opposition to the LARES recommendations was in part because he felt its goals were unachievable. "We've had these three big projects that have fallen apart in just the last few months, right? The Uniper collapse, the CFPP collapse, and now there's also the power line for the wind power, the SunZia project, also going under."

Reagor also expressed his general disagreement about climate change. "In the big picture of climate, that whole story has been full of holes for years," said Reagor. "I think what really happens is that the manmade CO2 does almost nothing to the planet and causes us no harm and in fact may even help farm production, for all we can tell."

Local news coverage:

Los Alamos Daily Post, November 20, 2023, Video: Reagor Weighs In On Approval Of LARES Recommendations.

<https://ladailypost.com/reagor-weighs-in-on-approval-of-lares-recommendations/>

Los Alamos Daily Post, Kirsten Laskey . November 16, 2023, Plug Pulled On Carbon Free Power Project.

<https://ladailypost.com/plug-pulled-on-carbon-free-power-project/>

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin

Observer Corps Report – County Council – November 28, 2023

Rendija Canyon, Regional Economic Development Initiative

The hybrid session was attended by Chair Denise Derkacs, Vice Chair Theresa Cull, and Councilors Melanee Hand, Suzie Havemann, Keith Lepsch, David Reagor, and Randall Rytli . Our observer report is based on discussion during the meeting and documentation provided in the full agenda package.

Rendija Canyon Update

Paul Andrus, Community Development Director, summarized discussions held between County staff and Department of Energy (DOE) officials regarding potential scenarios for the transfer of DOE-owned land parcels in Rendija Canyon. The County's 2009 Rendija Canyon Master Plan calls for this land to be developed for recreation and open space.

Deed restrictions on land use

Rendija Canyon historically was an ammunition impact area, and the possibility of residual unexploded ordnances (UXO) remains. A UXO survey by the Army Corps of Engineers determined that deed restrictions for future uses would be required. The restrictions would require a UXO Tech Clearance Survey prior to ground-disturbing activity greater than a few inches.

Discussions between the County and DOE on land conveyance have been underway for over a decade. The negotiations had reached an impasse because the County was unwilling to accept any transfer with deed restrictions and NNSA remains unwilling to accept risks associated with changing the deed restriction.

Phased approach

The County currently favors a phased approach as being the most efficient way to expedite the transfer of land parcels with

minimized deed restrictions. The County would identify specific areas in Rendija Canyon that might accommodate activities included in the 2009 Master Plan such as trail corridors for hiking, mountain bike riding, and horseback riding.

High-intensity uses could include development of an RV and camping area, picnic and day use areas, and single-track areas for off-highway vehicle use. The County would request possible use of modern technologies and techniques within those targeted areas to reduce concerns about UXO. Based on updated findings, the County would refine the proposed uses and specific areas.

Under any scenario, ownership of the Los Alamos Sportsmen's Club and Archery Range are being retained by DOE and leased. The Poorman's Shooting Range is also being retained by DOE. In these cases, transfers are not being considered because the cost of cleanup would be prohibitive. Two other parcels are not currently being considered for transfer because they have cultural significance for San Ildefonso and Santa Clara Pueblos.

Next steps

DOE has asked the County to come back with more specific identification of the types of uses that the County has in mind. Council asked the County to request additional information from DOE and to bring a firm plan back to Council for a vote.

Update of Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Plan

Council gave unanimous approval to support the preliminary draft update to the REDI Plan. The Regional Development Corporation (RDC) and North Central Economic Development Economic Development District (NCNMEDD) will now seek the support and endorsement of the updated plan with its other regional partners and stakeholders and will then return to Council for its approval and adoption of the completed REDI Plan Update.

The presentation was made by Patrick Vanderpool, RDC Executive Director, and by Monica Abeita, NCNMEDD Executive Director. NCNMEDD is assisting RDC in the development and socialization of the draft update.

REDI Plan background

In 2007 Los Alamos County signed cooperative agreements with local governments in the four-county region of Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, and Taos to develop a plan that would serve as a roadmap for regional investments. The first REDI Plan was adopted in 2009.

The 2023 update to the REDI Plan uses current data, current economic development plans, and an environmental scan to document changes in the four-county region since 2009. Abeita said the new information and stakeholder meetings allowed the RDC and NCNMEDD to develop a list of recommendations and performance metrics. Abeita noted that a major difference between this plan and the previous one is a much more regional approach for recommended projects.

Economic Development Themes and Recommended Projects

The previous REDI Plan focused on small business and workforce development, said Abeita. The updated plan adds a focus on capacity building of communities and pueblos, such as through professional development and

providing infrastructure for economic development.

The updated plan recommends specific projects to address each of seven themes. Lead entities are designated for each project. Stated themes are regional collaboration, business development, workforce, climate change and renewables, workforce housing, broadband, and funding priorities.

Performance metrics

Abeita described indicators by which the Plan will measure economic improvement for each county. Important metrics include number of jobs created, new businesses formed, new funding and investment, new and rehabilitated housing units available to the workforce, and regional and public/private partnerships. For counties that lag the national average in specific indicators, metrics include increases in median household income, workforce participation, and number of households with an Internet subscription. For counties that exceed the national average in specific indicators, metrics include decreases in poverty rate and unemployment rate.

Local news coverage:

Los Alamos Daily Post, November 30, 2023, Video: Councilor Randall Rytty Gives Briefing on November 28 Meeting.

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin

November Lunch with a Leader: Jill Dixon of the Food Depot and Lyn Havel of LA Cares

Jill Dixon, the Deputy Director of the Food Depot, where she has worked for 12 years, explained that the organization started as a food rescue program, retrieving food from restaurants so that it did not go to waste. Now 30 years old, the business has grown exponentially; it covers 26,000 square miles in nine counties and has 41 full-time employees.

As a traditional food bank, the Food Depot acquires food on a massive scale, re-packages and delivers it to 161 distribution points like LA Cares each month. However, some communities do not have an equivalent of LA Cares, so the Food Depot also provides food pantries. In 2022 they distributed 9.5 million pounds of food for 8.3 million meals.

A “food secure future” is the goal of the Food Depot. Dixon pointed out that hunger is a symptom of poverty and there is significant poverty in northern New Mexico, even in the wealthy communities of Los Alamos and Santa Fe. When the pandemic shut down many jobs at the end of March 2020, the food line at the warehouse in Santa Fe was three miles long.

With inflation and the reduction of SNAP benefits, more people are in line now than in 2021. More than half have a member in the workforce, many others are caregivers for a family member. The prevalence of food deserts exacerbates the problem. Many Food Depot clients live more than 60 miles from a full-service grocery store.

Dixon said that 58% of the food distributed by the Food Depot consists of fresh fruit and vegetables. Part of that, 300,000-400,000 lbs/year, is rescued food, which must be sorted and cleaned by volunteers working six shifts a week.

She also said that the organization “needs to get a little spicy.” One example of that was the creation of the Casita de Comida in Española, a no-cost market supplying produce, protein items, dairy, pantry staples, and personal care items. The market opened one year ago; pre-registered clients can shop there for 15 minutes once a month; it is visited by 3300 people each month. Rio Arriba, where the poverty rate is 19%, could use more such facilities, but there is also a need in San Miguel County and Raton.

The public is invited to visit the Casita de Comida (628 N. Riverside Dr., Española) on December 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to celebrate their anniversary.

Dixon said that “to end hunger, we must have conversations about poverty.” Another example of their effort to “get spicy” is their link with the Santa Fe Connect Network, where skilled navigators link people to services and resources to address issues such as housing, violence, job training, and many other areas.

Next, Lyn Havel, the president of LA Cares, explained that the local food pantry started in 1997 as “Homeless Services.” It has a nine-member board, no paid employees, depends entirely on volunteers, and serves over 90 families. The County provides a storage room, but LA Cares has no warehouse and no cold storage. The volunteers prepare bags for a monthly food distribution from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, which makes space available for LA Cares three days a month.

LA Cares is dependent on the generosity of people, schools, and other organizations for donations; they do not receive any grants. The pantry offers assistance only to Los Alamos residents. The only expenses other than food are insurance and printing. They receive \$50-80,000 a year, 96% of which goes to the clients.

The volunteers provide a balanced bag of groceries using client input. They try to provide for every dietary need: gluten free, low sugar, low salt, and also supply diapers and pet food. Fresh produce is purchased in bulk from Smiths in White Rock, where they get a 10% discount. Some of the food comes from the Food Depot; LA Cares also receives “rescue” food from both Smiths stores.

In addition to the food, they can provide rent and utility assistance to a family once a year. The County is working to set up a networking program similar to that in Santa Fe.

High on the wish list for the food pantry is a facility for permanent cold storage, but a market similar to the Casita de Comida would also be ideal.

Barbara Calef

In case you missed it in the last Update —

Barbara Calef Has Been Elected to the Living Treasures for 2023

Our long-serving president Barbara Calef has been honored as a Living Treasure of Los Alamos in a ceremony at Fuller Lodge on September 10. Anyone who knows Barbara's tireless League work for both the local and the state Leagues knows how richly she deserves this award. Congratulations, Barbara!

For the rest of the article, see:

<https://losalamosreporter.com/2023/08/24/2023-living-treasures-of-los-alamos-are-joyce-nickols-don-cobb-and-barbara-calef/>



Barbara Calef. Photo by Jim O'Donnell

Tickler Report – Tentative Council Agenda Items

Tickler Report

Tentative Council Agenda Items as of October 17, 2023

This is a partial list of tentative Council agenda items that was distributed with the Council's agenda package for its November 28, 2023 session. All of the items are subject to change.

- Permitting, Process Development, and Business Updates from the Community Development Department
 - Briefing at 12/5/23 meeting
- 2024 New Mexico Counties Legislative Priorities Support
 - Discussion and possible action at 12/05/23 meeting
- Los Alamos East Metropolitan Redevelopment Area (MRA) Designation
 - Discussion and possible action at 12/05/23 meeting
- Minimum Wage Ordinance
 - Introduction at 12/05/23 meeting
- Wildlife Feeding Ordinance
 - Discussion and review of community feedback at 12/12/23 meeting
- Budget Guidance
 - Discussion at 12/12/23 meeting
- Bear Carts
 - Presentation and possible action at 12/12/23 meeting
- Animal Ordinance
 - Public hearing at 12/12/23 meeting
- Resolution of Support for a Bee City Certification
 - Briefing and possible action at 12/12/23 meeting
- North Mesa Housing Project
 - Discussion at 12/18/23 meeting

Tickler Report – County BCC Vacancies

County BCC Vacancies as of October 31, 2023

Los Alamos County has 12 standing Boards and Commissions (BCCs). Generally, the purpose of a board is to serve in an advisory capacity to the County Council, but some have statutory responsibilities as well.

All BCCs and current vacancies are below as of November 30, 2023.

Upcoming vacancies are in **yellow** text. Changes from last report have a **magenta** highlight.

• Art in Public Places Board	1*
◦ 2 terms ending Mar 24, 2024	
• Board of Public Utilities	0
◦ 1 vacancy created in January 2024	
• County Health Council	4*
◦ 5 terms ending Jan 6, 2024	
• Environmental Sustainability Board	0
◦ No terms ending soon	
• Historic Preservation Advisory Board	2
◦ No terms ending soon	
• Labor Management Relations Board	0
◦ No terms ending soon	
• Library Board	0
◦ No terms ending soon	
• Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board	0
◦ No terms ending soon	
• Parks and Recreation Board	3
◦ No terms ending soon	
• Personnel Board	1
◦ 1 term ending Mar 31, 2024	
• Planning and Zoning Commission	0
◦ 3 terms ending Mar 31, 2024	
• Transportation Board	0
◦ 3 terms ending Feb 28, 2024	

Los Alamos County residents may submit an online application by visiting the County's Boards and Commissions webpage and selecting "apply."

https://www.losalamosnm.us/government/boards__commissions

* The Los Alamos County Code stipulates that "No board or commission shall have more than a simple majority of members registered in the same political party." Consequently, registered Democrats are ineligible for these vacancies. (Note: this qualification does not apply to the Board of Public Utilities.)

LWVLA Board of Directors 2023-2024



The new League board after our first in-person meeting, left to right: Rebecca Chaiken, Amy Birnbaum, Jean Dewart, Akkana Peck, Barbara Calef, Felicia Orth, Addie Jacobson, Lynn Jones, Ellen Mills, Becky Shankland, Karyl Ann Armbruster, Jody Benson. Missing from photo: Bob Williams. Photo by Susanna Marshland.

Officers:

- President: Felicia Orth
- 1st Vice-President: [open]
- 2nd Vice-President: Ellen Mills
- Past President: Barbara Calef
- Secretary: Rebecca Chaiken
- Treasurer: Addie Jacobson

Directors:

- Reservations: Amy Birnbaum
- Lunch with a Leader: Karyl Ann Armbruster
- Newsletter Editor: Robert Williams
- Publicity: Jody Benson
- Director at Large: Akkana Peck
- Director at Large: Rebecca Shankland
- Voter Services: Lynn Jones

Off-board Directors:

- Arrangements: Wendy Swanson
- Nominating Committee: [open]
- Fundraising: Ellen Mills, Leslie Wallstrom, and Tracy McFarland
- Observer Corps: June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin
- Membership: Jean Dewart
- Website/Social Media: Madhavi Garimella and Helena Whyte
- Video: Eduardo Santiago



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Date: _____

ZIP: _____

Phone 1: _____ E-mail 1: _____

Phone 2: _____ E-mail 2: _____

Membership Categories: All checks for memberships and contributions should be payable to LWV-Los Alamos and all are tax-deductible. Let us know if you'd like a tax-deduction statement. A substantial portion of Single and Household membership dues support state and national League of Women Voters work. The additional funds from Single Sustaining or Household Sustaining memberships support Los Alamos LWV initiatives such as the Voter Guide, candidate forums, etc.

_____ Single membership: \$45.

_____ Household membership (two or more people at the same address): \$70.

_____ Single Sustaining membership: \$75.

_____ Household Sustaining membership (two or more people at the same address): \$95.

_____ Student membership: Free (must be 16 or over).

_____ Additional donation to support the Los Alamos LWV work: \$ _____

_____ **Newsletter Update** – Check here to receive it as an electronic file, saving postage and paper,

_____ **OR** Check here if you prefer to have a hard copy of the newsletter mailed to you.

_____ Check here to receive occasional friendly reminders of upcoming events by e-mail.

Ways to help the League if you wish to be an active member (check as many as apply)

Name1 Name2

_____ _____ Voter Registration at events such as the Farmers Market. Training by the County Clerk's office.

_____ _____ Organize/provide refreshments at forums when we meet in person.

_____ _____ Observer Corps: Watch Council, DPU, P&Z meetings etc. and write a short summary to publish in our newsletter. (All meetings are recorded, so you can watch them later.)

_____ _____ Write newsletter articles on a local issue or League activity.

_____ _____ Assist in developing the Voter Guide: edit, develop questions, enter data onto League database, work with news publications to get the information printed, etc.

_____ _____ Assist with Lunch with a Leader: assist in inviting leaders to give presentations; order/deliver lunches when we meet in person, help set up tables, etc.

_____ _____ Website/social media: technical assistance and content development.

_____ _____ Advocate for League positions: communicate with local, state, and federal leaders.

_____ _____ Serve on the LWV-Los Alamos Board.

_____ _____ Other: _____

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