Calendar

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

Lunch with a Leader: LA Cares and Self Help

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

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

Karyl Ann Armbruster

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

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

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

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

“The city manager form of government has gained worldwide recognition as the most democratic, economical and efficient form yet devised,” said Mrs. Howe. Under it, the voters elect a council of five, seven or nine members who are directly responsible to the community. The council appoints its own department heads and coordinates the work of the various departments. Since he must be able to report progress and any time, responsibility is centered in the council elected by the people.

Mrs. Schreiber tells how a trained city manager who is directly responsible to council members and who assumes all administrative authority. Under provisions of the civil service make it system fit hiring and firing city employees.

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According to Mrs. Schreiber, the city manager plan accomplishments have been: a reduced partisan influence, improved city organization, permitted more long range planning, offered assistance by experts in various fields, raised standards of employees, made for a City Council that is a council of five, seven or nine members who are directly responsible to the community. The council appoints its own department heads and coordinates the work of the various departments. Since he must be able to report progress and any time, responsibility is centered in the council elected by the people.

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3 Women Register From Los Alamos For 1948 Voting

BERNALILLO Dec. 23 (AP) — Three women were the first to register from the atomic energy laboratory settlement at Los Alamos for a vote in New Mexico next year. County Clerk Johnne Archiboupe of San Miguel county said the three who registered were Mrs. Harriet P. McWey, Mrs. Adele P. Oyler and Mrs. Selma M. Walsh. All registered as independents.

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

Los Alamos has been designated as a precinct 17 with the voting day set for May 19. On the register, Mrs. Oyler said that the mail-in ballot was filled out and turned in.

The League will meet here and will also hold a meeting in the town of Los Alamos.
Update, July 2019

Scrapbook pages from LWLA files in the Los Alamos Archives. The newsletter articles from December 1947 (page 2) and January 1948 (page 3) document the beginning of our League. Photos by Addie Jacobson.
activities that started our town on its road to independent governance—without her, our early days might be lost to history.

We’ll start with three tidbits from 1947:
1. the League had 56 members;
2. the League allowed men to be Associate Members;
3. membership dues were $2 a year.

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

Rebecca Shankland,

Observer Corps Reports

County Council

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

Barbara Calef

Board of Public Utilities

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

Julie Williams-Hill

Welcome, New Members!

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

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

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

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

Adelaide (Addie) Jacobson writes: I am a 30-year resident of Los Alamos County, having moved here...
from southeastern North Carolina. I retired from Los Alamos Public Schools but have had careers as a stay-at-home mom, a NC district court judge, and a practicing attorney in NC and NM. My volunteer activities include receptionist at the WR Senior Center, a medical appointment driver through the Los Alamos Volunteer Association / Los Alamos Retired and Senior Organization (LAVA/LARSO) office, and several ministries in my church. I enjoy being outdoors, reading, and people!

Rebecca Shankland, Membership Chair

Farewell, George Taylor

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

Rebecca Shankland

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Black Hole on Arkansas in the North Community comprised two lots and the site plan calls for 44 market-rate townhouses to be built there. On the north side of D.P. Road, the Canyon Walk Apartments will include 7 buildings with 10 affordable apartments each. Los Alamos County donated the land for that
project. The apartments will be 2, 3, and 4-bedroom for families with an income equal to or less than the area median income.

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

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

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

Barbara Calef

Volunteers Needed!

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

LWVLA Board of Directors 2019-2020

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

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

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

If you would like to join the League, fill out and submit the membership form on page 7.
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ALAMOS
MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Name: _____________________________________________________ Date: _____________________
Address: ________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Phone(s): ___________________________ E-mail __________________________________________

___ Check here to receive our local newsletter Update as an electronic file, saving us postage
___ OR Check here if you prefer the newsletter mailed in hard copy.
___ Check here if you wish to receive occasional friendly reminders of upcoming events by e-mail.

Membership Categories (All checks for memberships and contributions should be payable to LWV-Los Alamos and all are now tax-deductible.)
___ Single membership: $45
___ Household membership (two+ people at the same address): $65
___ Single Sustaining membership: $75
___ Household Sustaining membership (two+ people at the same address): $95
___ Contribution: $_________

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

Topics of Interest
___ Affordable Housing
___ Local Government
___ Education
___ Elections, Voting Rights
___ Water Issues
___ Land Use
___ Health Care
___ Money in Politics
___ Sustainability
___ Living Wage
___ Public Transportation
___ Environment
___ Other topics (please suggest):

______________________________________________________________________________

Ways to Help with League Activities
___ Set up Refreshments at Forums
___ Observer Corps (County Council, DPU, etc.)
___ Nominating Committee
___ Voter Guide Committee
___ Voter Registration
___ Publicity
___ Website, Social Media
___ Newsletter
___ Membership
___ Fund-raising
___ Budget Committee for LWV
___ Lunch with a Leader (assistance)
___ Fund-raising Committee for LWV
___ Participate in board meetings or join the board
The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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