

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

August 28, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Felicia Orth called the meeting to order at 12:03pm.

Board Members Present

Felicia Orth, President
Leslie Wallstrom, 1st Vice-President
June Fabryka-Martin, 2nd Vice-President
Barbara Calef, Past President
Cecile Hemez, Secretary
Addie Jacobson, Treasurer
Becky Shankland, Director at Large
Lynn Jones, Voter Services/Voter Guide
Jody Benson, Publicity
Wendy Swanson, Reservations and Refreshments

Excused

Robert Williams, Membership
Lisa Hampton, Community Health and Wellbeing
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader
Akkana Peck, Director at Large

July LWVLA Board minutes – Jody Benson

Motion: June Fabryka-Martin moved to approve the July meeting minutes with a few grammatical and typographical corrections. Addie Jacobson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Addie Jacobson

Addie emailed the July report to the Board ahead of the meeting.

July 31, 2025 financial position: \$4,634.35 on checking account, \$10,641.12 on savings account, \$35,746.78 on CD maturing 11/12/25, and \$15,149.59 on CD maturing 10/03/25.

Leslie Wallstrom will conduct an inventory of the League's assets. She asks Board members to send her the description and location of League-owned items and material they know about (banners, file cabinet, audio system...).

Motion: Becky Shankland moved to task Addie Jacobson with rolling over the CD that will mature in October, in person. Barbara Calef seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Barbara Calef will reach out to Judy Prono to ask if AAUW wants to make a donation towards the publication of the Voter Guide and be acknowledged on the cover. The Delle Foundation has already made a donation.

Membership Report – Bob Willians excused

No report this month.

ChapterSpot Update – Barbara Calef

The layout of the portal has changed multiple times in recent weeks, making it difficult to access membership information.

102 members. 25 have not renewed their membership. The list was passed around and edited. Leslie Wallstrom will reach out.

Publicity Committee – Leslie Wallstrom

The committee would like to recruit more members. There were no responses to the call for volunteers in the last newsletter. The main tasks are to review what has been done in the past, and to come up with a publicity strategy that includes a new brochure, social media, and Letters to the Editor of the local newspapers.

Helena Whyte and Madhavi Garimella currently post on Facebook on behalf of the LWV-LA. Leslie Wallstrom will review the postings.

Barbara Calef and Akkana Peck recently met with Helena Whyte to discuss improvements to the website.

Lunch with a Leader – Karyl Ann Armbruster excused

- **September:** Tracie Stratton, Los Alamos Medical Center CEO
- **October:** Danielle Prokop, independent reporter

Suggestions for future topics and speakers:

- Homelessness in Española: Tyler Taylor, Dena Moscola (Executive Director/CEO Española Pathways Shelter), Maire O'Neill, possibly Jessica Strong
- Jennifer Guy, Los Alamos Public School Superintendent
- Gary Goddard, Los Alamos Airport Manager

Voter Guide Questions

The Voter Guide Questions team, led by Karyl Ann Armbruster, developed questions for each position up for election in the Fall. The questions were reviewed and slightly amended during the meeting.

Motion: Leslie Wallstrom moved to approve the Voter Guide questions as follows:

School Board Candidates:

1. Why do you want to serve on the Los Alamos School Board?
2. What are your qualifications and experiences that have prepared you to serve on this board?
3. What are the main challenges facing our school district in the next four years, and how do you propose addressing them?

4. How would you engage with school staff and parents to better understand our schools' strengths and weaknesses?

UNM-LA Advisory Board:

1. What do you think is the value of UNM-LA to the community of Northern New Mexico?
2. How should UNM-LA balance technical-certification training versus academic programs?
3. How are dual credit for high school students and the free tuition plan affecting UNM-LA?
4. What is the principal issue you foresee for UNM-LA and how would you approach it?

Mirador Public Improvement District Board:

1. What skills and experience would you bring to this board?
2. What are the most important issues facing Mirador and how would you address them?

Becky Shankland seconded. 9 voted yes, 1 abstained. The motion carried.

Leslie Wallstrom suggested asking the UNM-LA Advisory Board candidates their view on course offerings for Continuing Education. The question will be asked at the Candidate Forum.

Voter Guide Quote to Publish from LADP

Motion: Becky Shankland moved to approve the quote as submitted. Jody Benson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Voter Guide will come out on October 2.

National Voter Registration Day Is September 16

Barbara Calef will attend the September 9 County Council meeting for the proclamation. In a Friendly Reminder, Becky Shankland will invite all the League members to attend dressed in white. Felicia Orth will ask Ellen Mills to bring sashes.

Barbara Calef will talk to Michael Redondo, Los Alamos County Clerk, about how the League can support voter registration. She will also reach out to the 12 League members who have expressed interest in supporting voter registration efforts. Presence at the Farmers Market was also discussed. Cecile Hemez noted the value of engaging voters, beyond registration.

Candidate Forum - Schedule

Date: October 6, 7pm

Location: one of the White Rock elementary schools, or Fire Station #3.

Wendy Swanson will coordinate the event, including refreshments. Barbara Calef will invite candidates once the location has been set.

Banner for Parades

Motion: Jody Benson moved to approve the purchase of a new banner suitable for parades. Lynn Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Barbara Calef will order one. We would like the banner to show the League's logo and to mention Los Alamos.

Additional Topics Discussed

June Fabryka-Martin is interested in facilitating informal, small-group dialogues among local community members who hold different political views, with the primary objective being to seek points of agreement, which might perhaps lead to more productive dialogues on specific issues in the future. She asked if other Board members might be interested in participating. The idea and possible formats were discussed. No decision was made.

Newsletter Deadline: September 1

LWL (Karyl Ann)

County Council, P&Z Reports (June and Craig)

Welcome, New Members (Becky/JJ)

President's Report (Felicia)

Next Lunch with a Leader: September 18, 2025, 12pm

Next LWVLA board meeting: September 25, 2025, 12pm. Leslie Wallstrom will run the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm

Respectfully Submitted by Cecile Hemez 08/29/25
Edited with comments from Becky Shankland, June Fabryka-Martin, Barbara Calef

Approved by the Board on 09/25/25