

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

September 25, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Leslie Wallstrom called the meeting to order at 12:03pm.

Board Members Present

Leslie Wallstrom, 1st Vice-President
June Fabryka-Martin, 2nd Vice-President
Barbara Calef, Past President
Cecile Hemez, Secretary
Becky Shankland, Director at Large
Lynn Jones, Voter Services/Voter Guide
Jody Benson, Publicity
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader
Akkana Peck, Director at Large
Wendy Swanson, Reservations and Refreshments

Excused

Felicia Orth, President
Addie Jacobson, Treasurer
Robert Williams, Membership
Lisa Hampton, Community Health and Wellbeing

August LWVLA Board minutes – Cecile

Motion: Barbara Calef moved to approve the August meeting minutes. Wendy Swanson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Addie Jacobson

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

August 31, 2025, financial position: \$5,040.08 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.

Motion: June Fabryka-Martin moved to approve the August Treasurer's Report. Becky Shankland seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Membership Report – Bob Williams excused

Barbara Calef indicates that the current membership stands at 106, down from 129. Twenty-four memberships have not been renewed. Most of them are for spouses of current members.

ChapterSpot Update – Barbara Calef

The layout of the portal keeps changing. There might be an issue with donations showing on the portal but not being received by the Treasurer. Barbara will check with Addie.

Lunch with a Leader – Karyl Ann Armbruster

- **October:** Danielle Prokop, independent reporter. The topic has not been decided yet. Akkana suggested letting the speaker pick the topic she thinks is the most important for New Mexico currently. Jody suggested the topic of Free Speech. Akkana mentioned that DOE no longer responds to Freedom of Information Act requests and she wondered if the speaker could address this issue. Karyl Ann will work with Felicia on deciding the topic(s) for the forum.
- **November:** Tyler Taylor, Dena Moscola (Executive Director/CEO Española Pathways Shelter) on homelessness – to be confirmed.

Suggestion for future topic:

- Pit production, with possibly several speakers

Voter Guide Update – Lynn Jones

All 18 candidates responded to the questions. The material was delivered to Los Alamos Daily Post on September 22. The Voter Guide will come out on October 2.

Lynn inquired about publicity about the Voter Guide. Jody will announce it to the online news. She will also write a Letter to the Editor. Copies will be placed in public places, such as libraries. An electronic copy of the Voter Guide will be posted on the League's website.

Karyl Ann asked what the League could do to incentivize people to run for School Board. Considerations about modifying State Law to allow "at-large" candidates were discussed. The group thought that asking School Board candidates about their position on the issue at the Candidate Forum would be valuable.

Publicity Committee – Leslie Wallstrom

Leslie will schedule a meeting with Jody, Barbara, Akkana and Helena Whyte. The committee will discuss a publicity strategy.

The publicity hopes to recruit someone who is adept at social media. Jody suggested contacting Julie Williams-Hill for her knowledge of the social media landscape in Los Alamos.

The new banner, designed by Barbara and Akkana, has arrived.

National Voter Registration Day, September 16 – Barbara Calef

The proclamation of National Voter Registration Day by the County Council on September 9 was well attended. The photo will be used to publicize the Voter Guide and Candidate Forum.

Barbara reported that two League members stood by Sugar & Cream Café on September 16 and were asked questions by passersby, including ways to join the League. Two League members set up an information table at the Farmers Market on September 25, and two more will be present on October 2.

Leslie reminded members to take photos of the public events they participate in.

Candidate Forum - Schedule

Date: Monday, October 6, 7pm

Location: Piñon Elementary School

Format: hybrid, several candidates will join virtually

Sal, IT coordinator at Piñon Elementary, will assist in setting up the audio and video systems.

Jody will advertise the event. She asked for the Zoom link that will allow participants to attend the meeting remotely.

Wendy is organizing refreshments. They will be served starting at 6:30. Wendy reached out to the members who have volunteered to provide refreshments.

Becky will bring nametags.

Health Forum – Leslie Wallstrom

Planning is moving forward, in collaboration with the Los Alamos Community Foundation. The target timeframe is the last week in February, after the Legislative Session has concluded. The theme will be health care issues in Northern New Mexico. Possible guests include representatives from regional hospitals, a consultant from Think New Mexico, and legislators. Cecile suggested reaching out to NM-DOH and possibly the Indian Health Service. Jody asked to consider the impact of heroin use as a topic.

The forum will be open to the public. It will be held in Los Alamos (venue TBD).

League Member Party

Karyl Ann will ask Ellen Mills to host the gathering in November, on a Sunday afternoon.

Additional Topics

No Board meeting in November.

No Lunch with a Leader in December.

The December Board meeting will be December 4th. **Agenda item for October meeting:** discuss a possible time change, as two Board members are scheduled to attend the Los Alamos Health Council meeting at noon on December 4th.

Maire O'Neill, Los Alamos Reporter, asked if she could publish the County meeting reports written by June for the League's monthly newsletter. The reports will be sent to her after they are issued in the *Update*, with credit given to the League's Observer Corps. This is an opportunity to promote the League's work.

Newsletter Deadline: October 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: October 16, 2025, 12pm

Next LWVLA board meeting: October 23, 2025, 11:45pm

The meeting was adjourned at 1:33pm

Respectfully Submitted by Cecile Hemez 09/26/25

Edited with comments from June Fabryka-Martin, Barbara Calef, Karyl Ann Armbruster, Becky Shankland,
Jody Benson

Approved by the Board on 10/23/25