

LWVLA Board Meeting, Thursday March 26, 2026
UU Fellowship Hall, 1738 N. Sage St.

1. Call to Order

Felicia Orth called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. in the Unitarian Church.
Evan Rose took the Board Photo for the LWV-LA webpage.
The Board thanked Felicia for the excellent soup lunch.

2. Board Members Present

Felicia Orth, Akkana Peck, Barbara Calef, Lynn Jones, Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lisa Hampton, Adelaide Jacobson, Jody Benson, Leslie Wallstrom, Wendy Swanson, Robert Williams.

Excused: June Fabryka-Martin, Becky Shankland, Cecile Hemez.

3. February LWVLA Board minutes accepted

4. Treasurer's Report

A The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

B The Budget Team will present the budget at the Annual Meeting.

5. 100 Men Who Care, March 12, at SALA

A. When Felicia Orth asked for support of the "2026 Voter Guide" she reminded participants of the threats to democracy including details about the SAVE America Act that requires that when people, including married women, register to vote, they must have a passport or birth certificate matching their current name.

B. The *Los Alamos Reporter* headlined: "Los Alamos 100 Men Who Care members selected League of Women Voters of Los Alamos as the recipient of their March 2026 giving award." The award was \$3750. Find the story at:
<https://losalamosreporter.com/2026/04/02/league-of-women-voters-los-alamos-wins-100-men-who-care-march-giving-event/>

6. Lunch with a Leader

A Bob reported that the video of the Chris Chandler Lunch talk was defective.

B Howie Morales will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting.

C Other LWL speakers could include:

a. Tina Cordova - Downwinders,

b. Myrriah Gomez, UNM professor,

c. Fire Chief Eric Litzenberg for June for fire season,

d. New JJAB director

e. Anne Laurent for another County update.

7 Membership Report

A The Board discussed whether and/or what kind of new database we need for donors that will tell us who donates and when, so that we don't ask the same person multiple times a year for donations, and how we can honor special donors.

B For every donor or new member, Addie sends a thank you letter. We would like to better understand how the National and our LWV-LA databases overlap, and how we can maintain them.

C We need to distinguish between members and donors.

- D LWVUS maintains the database, but there's some confusion about our League's database. There will be a special meeting devoted to that topic, probably before April 18.
- E Bob is trying to improve data by:
 - a. Coordinating it with the actual link,
 - b. Ensuring the macros work well with Macs,
- F We have members and associates. Bob defines associates as those who want to donate, but don't want to be members.
- G Bob is currently tracking both membership dues and donations. Others on the Board have their personal databases, but hopefully Bob's will incorporate all of them.
- H Bob has the 119 members that are in LWVUS database.
- I The LWVLA database lists 53 associates. Questions:
- J Bob believes that 13 of his members are not in the National database, although there should be no one we consider a member of LWVLA who is not in National database.
- K The Board decided to delete people who are lapsed members.

7. Voter Guide

- A The Board discussed Jean Dewart's "Lessons Learned from Voter Guide Questions Team 2026." This document will help guide future teams.
- B The Board thanked Jean and all the team members who spent many hours interviewing experts, then creating questions.
- C The Board made a few changes to the wording of the questions.
- D Carol Clark notified Lynn that the Time Capsule that the Historical Society is putting under the new flooring in Oppenheimer House includes the 2025 and 2024 Voter Guides.
- E This year's Voter Guide is expanding because we have 5 or 6 questions for state candidates.
- F Our Voter Guide will include a reference to Vote411.
- G Lisa pointed out that we opted to not accept money from the state Thornburg Foundation grant because, unlike some of the other Leagues, we have the funding to publish our paper copy.
- H Although we initially estimated 16 pages, the expanded Guide could be up to 24.

MOTION: Felicia moved to authorize the Voter Guide to go to as many pages as necessary in the judgement of the Voter Guide committee. Second Akkana. Accepted unanimously.

MOTION: Felicia moved to adopt the questions as amended. Second Akkana. Accepted unanimously.

8. Forum

- A The candidate forum will be on April 30 at UNMLA.
- B There are seven Council candidates and two running for sheriff. Barbara sent invitations to all nine candidates and has received six acceptances.
- C The Board discussed how to handle inappropriate behavior in this ultra-polarized environment.
 - a. The Board concurred that rather than handing audience members the mic, we would pass out cards for people to write their questions.

- b. The LAHS Speech and Debate students will collect the cards.
- c. A member of the LWV other than the moderator will filter the cards for appropriateness and give them to the moderator, who will read them.

10 Flyer to publicize the change in primary election law to semi-open

- A. The Board discussed the flyer and thanked Barbara for doing the research to develop it so succinctly.
- B. The discussion was between the efficacy of TikTok videos to be absorbed in 8-seconds vs accuracy in information. "Our value is accuracy in information. We will default to fact."
- C. The Board was pleased to accept the updated, detailed flyer.
- D. Barbara will get the flyer printed and Leslie with her helpers will distribute it around Los Alamos.
- E. We will also have copies to hand out at events and will send a copy to the onlines in April.

10. Update on Preparations for Annual Meeting

A. Presentations:

- d. **President's Report**
- e. **Treasurer's Report**
- f. **Membership Report**
- g. **Adoption of Local Program**
- h. **Adoption of FY 2026-2027 Budget**
- i. **Election of Officers and Directors**

B. Speaker: Lt. Governor Howie Morales.

- a. Issues we would like him to talk about include:
- b. Will we have another session to pass the rest of the unfinished bills?
- c. What's it like being Lt Governor?
- d. What is his greatest accomplishment or the most fun?

11. LWVNM Council is April 25, 2026 in Albuquerque

- A. Lisa and Barbara will go in person; Akkana might zoom.
- B. It is recommended that Leslie go in person because she will be on the State Board.
- C. Gas may be paid.

12 Next Board Meeting: April 23, 2026

13. Candidate Forum is April 30, 2026

14. Newsletter Deadline: April 1

- A. LWL (Karyl Ann)
- B. County Council, P&Z Reports (Jody for 03/17, June and Craig for 03/31)
- C. Welcome, New Members (Becky)
- D. President's Report (Felicia)

Meeting Adjourned 1:43

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Benson