

News Flash!

All hurdles have been cleared and the Asociación de Vecinos de la Choya, A.C. is ready to move into full operation, overseeing the services for property owners in La Choya.

Current status:

After consulting with an attorney who specializes in Civil Association and HOA law in Mexico, we learned that, officially, our new association has only two members, Pat Sledge and Lew Felton. Although we recognize all of you who have paid annual fees as members of the association, your membership needs to be recorded at the Public Records office to be official.

Here's your part

1. Fill out the attached request for membership (if you haven't already done that).
2. Have it signed by one owner of each property and witnessed by two individuals who are not co-owners of the same property (just folks, not notaries).
3. Deliver it to Lew Felton or mail it to: Vecinos de la Choya, PO Box 620, Lukeville, AZ 85341.
4. If you wish to serve on the Board, send a letter of intent (limit 300 words) to Lew Felton (chollafiddler@gmail.com) by December 27. Open positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three members at large.
5. Attend the General Assembly (annual meeting) on Jan. 18, 9 a.m., at the Community Center in person or by Zoom. All who have requested membership will be added to the association.
6. Following the meeting, members will be asked to vote on: the Candidates for the Board; the Budget for 2025; the By-laws of the Association and Community Improvements.
7. Those who cannot attend the meeting, or who attend by Zoom, will need to have submitted a membership request form and submit an absentee ballot. Ballots will be sent to all property owners by email on January 5 and must be returned to the Lukeville post office by January 10 to be assured of reaching Lew and being cast at the Jan. 18 meeting. That ballot must be signed and witnessed by two individuals. Your vote will be cast by a proxy if you cannot attend.
8. Your membership fee of \$150 for 2025 must be paid before your vote can be recorded. You can do that when you send in your request for membership form, send in your ballot, or attend the January meeting. There will be a two-month grace period following the meeting for members to complete membership fee payment without late-payment penalties.

A Heads-Up:

Membership fees have not increased for property owners in Choya in nearly nine years, although expenses have. Vecinos pay \$150 a year, compared with Las Conchas owners who pay \$1,500 annually for similar services. Vecinos membership fees will not increase for 2025.

However, to operate this new association in accordance with Mexico rules and regulations, the Association must hire an accountant to file monthly reports and annual tax returns, and contract for legal services to record, transcribe and submit minutes from the annual meeting to the Public Registry. In addition, the Board will contract with a private contractor to process membership information, billing and payments, as was done by the previous association.

In 2025, the Board will subsidize the additional operational expenses from "pre-paid assessments." In 2026, we will need to significantly increase the number of paid members, or increase fees. We encourage you to talk with your neighbors and help them understand the benefits of supporting the community. Additional members could make it possible to keep the fee at \$150.

Services in our community are only possible because of the Vecinos de la Choya, A.C. If you use the roads, have water delivery from the drivers at the standpipe, benefit from the community center, sanitary services and security, you know the value you receive for your \$150 annual services fee. We hope you'll show your commitment to the community, your friends and neighbors, by being an active member of the Association that provides those services for you.

[Link to membership application](#)