



July Board Meeting Minutes

League of Women Voters of Polk County, Florida

Monday, July 27, 2026 - 5:00 pm

The meeting was conducted fully online.

OFFICERS:

Jo Shim, Co-president
Pat Denham, Co-president
Kristen Carlson, Co-Vice president
Ashley Haynie, Co-Vice president
Donna Daniels, Secretary
Katy Pace Byrd, Treasurer

DIRECTORS:

Litreace Coppit
Jen Cordova
Jackye Maxey
Mike Murray
James Micah Jarrett

- 1) Confirm Quorum
 - a. Quorum was confirmed by Donna Daniels
 - b. Voting members in attendance:
 - i. Katy Pace Byrd
 - ii. Kristen Carlson
 - iii. Jen Cordova
 - iv. Litreace Coppit
 - v. Donna Daniels
 - vi. Pat Denham
 - vii. Ashley Haynie
 - viii. Jackye Maxey
 - ix. Mike Murray
 - x. Jo Shim
 - c. Other members in attendance
 - i. Linda Donaldson, Action Team Chair
- 2) Call to Order
 - a. Jo Shim called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.
- 3) Approval of Minutes (May 2026)
 - a. Katy Pace Byrd moved that the minutes from the May 2026 Board meeting be approved. Kristen Carlson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Treasurer's Report
 - a. Updated reports are now posted on the google drive; feel free to Ask Katy any questions about the reports.
 - b. In the statement of activity report, \$250 was listed under membership dues. The funds were a small grant towards the Day of Action event. Katy will amend to put the funds under grants.
 - c. LWV/PC expects the final payment money from LWV/US for the Former and Currently Incarcerated Voter Registration Grant from November 2025 to arrive soon.
- 5) Presidents' Report
 - a. The School Board Candidate forum event was very successful. Thank you to everyone for your participation and support!
 - b. VOTE411.org has been going well
 - i. All candidates' information should be updated on the platform.
 - ii. Please let your friends and families know about the resource.



- iii. Information on the amendments is already on Vote411
 - c. Day of Action Event
 - i. When - Saturday, August 8 (same day that early voting begins)
 - ii. Where - Main Public Library (across from Lake Morton)
 - iii. What - Writing postcards to low propensity voters to encourage them to vote during the August primary
 - iv. Note - Donations of post card stamps and/or funds to purchase stamps are greatly appreciated
 - d. Canvassing Board Sessions at the Supervisors of Election's (SOE's) Office
 - i. Jo will attend the Logic and Accuracy Canvassing Board at the SOE's office on August 29. She recently attended Canvassing Board Training made available through LWVFL.
- 6) Committees and Action Teams
- a. Items for consideration by the Board.
 - i. Creation of a generalized/social justice action team. See proposal submitted by Jen Cordova
 - 1. Points of discussion:
 - a. All new members would be invited to join a larger, all-encompassing group to encourage member participation at the onset. This idea was modeled after committees at the state level.
 - b. This may make it easier for action teams to recruit members. This may help action teams that don't meet regularly. If they meet as one group, they may discover group project ideas.
 - c. This format could reduce email traffic, improve communication across the chapter, and keep members engaged.
 - d. Some of the action teams would need to be exempted from the larger group because of how they currently manage activities (ex: health, speaker's bureau). It is important to speak with each action team to see what works best.
 - e. The Board agreed to table this until later in the year, or possibly after the holidays.
- 7) New Business
- a. MidFlorida Bank Account:
 - i. Motion to add LWV of Polk County Board secretary, Donna Daniels, to the account.
 - 1. Katy Pace Byrd moved that Donna Daniels be added to the signatory list for the MidFlorida Bank Account as Board



Secretary. Pat Denham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. We will have to go to the bank, with the meeting notes indicating the motion's approval to make the change.
- b. Motion to nominate James Micah Jarrett to the Board as an appointed member.
 - i. As per parliamentary procedures, the Board president(s) make the appointment and the Board votes to approve or disapprove the appointment
 - ii. Co-presidents Pat Denham and Jo Shim appointed James Micah Jarrett to the LWV of Polk County Board. Jen Cordova moved to nominate James Micah Jarrett as an appointed member of the - need to include the person who seconded the motion and the vote.
- c. The board reviewed suggested Board goals for 2026-2027 - **The four bolded items will be the Board's goals for the upcoming year.**
 - i. **Schedule at least 4 LWV of Polk County events at locations outside Lakeland**
 1. This will include Coffee and Conversations.
 - ii. **Develop strategies to make LWV of Polk County communications functions (website, social media, publicity, google drive and MailChimp) more cohesive and effective.**
 1. We will work to ensure these strategies are measurable.
 - iii. Schedule a [Soul Box](#) event to raise awareness to gun violence prevention
 1. This is an initiative to remember and memorialize people who were the victims of gun violence. Please see <https://soulboxproject.us/> for more details.
 2. Mike Murray and Jo Shim will take the lead on this.
 - iv. **Establish a group for new members until they find a relevant action team or other role.**
 1. Some do not receive information from the LWV (State level).
 2. Linda Donaldson, membership chair, does a lot by herself, and needs more support.
 - v. **Hold a LWVPC fundraising event with a goal of \$4,000**
 1. Budget calls for a budget of \$2,500, but let's keep the goal at \$4,000 to allow for a buffer and rising costs
 - vi. Establish a permanent hospitality action team
 - vii. Develop a transport plan for senior LWV of Polk County members, especially for those who don't live in Lakeland, to enable them to attend events.



- viii. Develop a plan to increase the number of social day-time events available for LWV of Polk County members.
 - 1. Brown bag lunch
 - 2. Invite guest speakers
 - ix. Establish an Observer Corps group/ action team to monitor school board, county commission and city commission meetings
 - 1. This week's school board meeting will be about the tax referendum. Board members will observe the meeting online.
 - 2. Poll the LWV of Polk County membership to see who could regularly go to these meetings to bring back information
 - 3. If going as a LWV of Polk County Observer, wearing a LWV shirt or name badge, go only to observe, do not ask questions or express any opinions.
 - d. Consideration of the suggestion to use the gift from the Patricia Gill Trust to establish a scholarship fund.
 - i. Do we want to use this for scholarships? Will this be impactful? Can this be used for an internship? Should we offer the funds to our student volunteers? More discussion is needed before a decision can be made.
 - ii. The Board tabled this for future discussion
 - e. Request from Vicki Wuertz, nominating committee chair, for the Board to appoint the third member of the nominating committee.
 - i. The current Nominating Committee will nominate two members and the Board nominates a third person. The third person cannot remove capital letters on cannot be the president
 - ii. Jackye Maxey agreed to be the board representative.
 - iii. Co-presidents Pat Denham and Jo Shim appointed Jackye Maxey to be the Board representative for the 2027 - 2028 Nominating Committee. Katy Pace Byrd moved to appoint Jackye Maxey to the Nominating Committee, Pat Denham seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- 8) Unfinished Business
- a. Business cards for Board members - update on cost and vendors
 - i. There is money in the budget to reimburse members for getting the business cards made.
 - ii. Blinq App offers a QR code, Office Depot and other options
 - b. Completion of the Annual Meeting Minutes review from Karen Freedman and Charlene Bennett the assigned members of the 2026-2027 annual meeting minutes committee.
 - i. Review is in process



- c. Scheduling a social event for the old and new Board - update
 - i. The Board wants to hold this in a location outside of Lakeland.
Suggested places:
 - 1. [Zest in Bartow](#)
 - 2. [Lavender and Lace](#) in Lake Alfred
 - d. Brief recap of events in June and July
 - i. June – Equal Ground Legislative Debrief Tour June 4th 6-8 pm at the Well.
 - 1. This event went well.
 - ii. Presentation at Beacon Hill Fellowship June 14th
 - 1. LWV of Polk County presented the church with a check for \$100. The gift was appreciated and well received.
 - iii. General membership zoom call July 1 at 6pm on zoom
 - iv. LWVFL Council of Leaders, Rollins College, Orlando July 11
 - v. School Board Candidate Forum July 16 at the Well
 - 1. This event went well.
 - vi. Coffee and Conversation, Winter Haven, June 27 and July 25
 - 1. This event went well.
 - e. Future Events
 - i. Day of Action - August 8
 - 1. Ben will send out more advertising using MailChimp
 - 2. Good to send out our messaging and get more people involved
 - ii. Hot Topic - A Conversation with Polk Superintendent Heid, August 20 at the Well
 - 1. Co-presidents Pat Denham and Jo Shim will meet with Linda this week to discuss
 - iii. Hot Topic - The 2026 Amendments, September 17
 - 1. More discussion is needed to determine how to best implement this.
 - iv. Ideas needed for October and November
 - v. December Holiday Party
 - vi. January- Invite Polk County SOE, Melony Bell and Tax Collector, Joe Tedder.
- 9) Any Other Business (AOB)
- a. NAACP Freedom Fund Gala August 29 - What should be our level of support? Table or Booklet Ad?
 - i. The budget will need to be amended to include this.
 - ii. Kristen Carlson will donate \$50.



- iii. Jo Shim moved that LWV of Polk County support the NAACP Freedom Fund Gala with a booklet ad of \$100. Jen Cordova seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Candidate forums prior to the November Midterm Elections
 - i. May try to schedule another forum before the elections
 - c. Popcorn Fundraising ideas
 - i. Popcorn fundraiser idea proposed by Litreace Coppit
 - ii. Company: [Double Good Popcorn](#)
 - 1. We don't have to collect money or distribute the popcorn. Our role is to send the [Double Good Popcorn](#) link to family and friends and so they can order online.
 - 2. As the sponsoring organization, we would make 50% of the sales profit.
 - d. Conversations across the aisle (CATA) - Update
 - i. [Conversations Across the Aisle \(CATA\)](#) - Update
 - 1. No updates at this time
 - 2. [Conversations Across the Aisle \(CATA\)](#) is a group based in Florida that brings people together to discuss political topics.
 - 3. The group hosts dinners every quarter to bring people of different backgrounds and beliefs together. They invite experts to speak about chosen topics. Participants eat dinner with a small group and a facilitator and give their thoughts and opinions. Each dinner lasts for about an hour.
 - 4. Participants are given ground rules to ensure all voices and opinions are heard. Facilitators are there to help guide the discussion and prevent any one participant from dominating the conversation.
 - 5. [Conversations Across the Aisle \(CATA\)](#) has a planning committee and is working on bringing these events to more counties in Florida.
 - e. Representation at One Million Cups, Wednesdays at 8:30am at the Well
 - i. Pat is working on this.
 - f. Other ideas for new events
 - i. Brown bag lunches
 - ii. Bingo socials
- 10) Adjournment
- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.
- 11) Next Board meeting
- a. Monday, August 24 at 5pm.

Jo Shim and Pat Denham: Agenda submitted 23 July, 2026



Donna Daniels: Meeting minutes submitted 4 August, 2026; revised meeting minutes submitted 17 August, 2026