



League of Women Voters of Polk County, Florida
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, March 26, 2026
The Well, 114 E. Parker Street, Lakeland FL 33801

Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: Charlene Bennett (Zoom) Heather Bradman (Zoom), Katy Pace Byrd, Litreace Coppit (Zoom), Jen Cordova, Linda Donaldson (Zoom), Karen Freedman (Zoom), Ben Graffam, and Jo Shim.

- 1) A Quorum was confirmed by Ben Graffam
- 2) The Meeting was called to order by Jo Shim at 4:02 PM
- 3) The Minutes for February's Board Meeting were approved
- 4) The Minutes for March 4's Executive Committee Meeting were approved
- 5) Katy Pace Byrd delivered the Treasurer's Report
- 6) Jo Shim delivered the President's Report, with special attention given to:
 - a. Jo's meeting with Michelle Helm of the Bartow Chamber of Commerce
 - b. Our league's received invitation to participate in the planning process for Equal Ground Legislative Debrief Tour
 - c. The Junior League's Women's Entrepreneurship Panel event on March 26
 - d. The LWVFL book club—this month's read: *High Conflict* by Amanda Ripley
- 7) There were no specific requests from our Committees or Action Teams, though Jen Cordova suggested we explore the possibility of creating a "generalized Action Team" to help direct members to opportunities to participate. This was tabled for the next board to address.
- 8) Pro Tem/Ad Hoc Committees
 - a. There were no new options from the Meeting Places Committee
 - b. Claudia Slate and Karen shared the slate as it stands so far from the Nominating Committee. The finalized version will be sent to Jo Shim before April 1.
 - c. **After addressing the proposed budget for 2026 - 2-27, Katy Pace Byrd moved that the board accept the proposed budget as written. The motion was seconded. It passed unanimously.**
 - d. Our Annual Meeting Planning, including regular meetings, remains in progress. Most of the logistics are now in place. A few additional meetings will probably be scheduled for last-minute checks and decisions.
- 9) New Business



- a. We discussed updating our website, believing it might need a professional direction. We also discussed that this would be a task for the next Board.
- b. Our league has been invited to visit and tour Options for Women on April 15, at 6 pm. Jo will be providing more information as it is available.

10) Unfinished Business

- a. Jo Shim has submitted the required paperwork to support the PWM Update to the LWVUS Privatization Position being a recommended program item for concurrence.
- b. Ben Graffam shared the recent progress of the Annual Meeting Booklet, suggesting that it is still on the edge of 24 or 28 pages. It should bring in approximately \$2,250.00.
- c. Ben Graffam, Jen Cordova, and Cindy Sternlicht will discuss and propose some “protocols” for the acknowledgement of the passing of league members and their family members.
- d. We tabled the discussion of Support/donation for Beacon Hill Fellowship.
- e. Review planning for Hot Topics and other events March - May 2026
 - i. The Revival of Coffee/Cocktails and Conversation remains a strong idea and a good way to get members from around the county together locally. Currently, Coffee and Conversation is scheduled for every 4th Saturday at Panera Bread in Winter Haven and has been going well. We still need to find suitable locations for Cocktails and Conversation. The March event in Bartow was not well attended
 - ii. April 21st is our next Membership Meeting and will include a presentation by Vote Riders
 - iii. Our Annual Meeting will be May 2, 2026
 - iv. The first monthly meeting for the new Board will be May 19th. Some ideas include an Open-minded Mic Night, Young People in Politics or a presentation on the National Popular Vote

11) No other business was brought to the board’s attention.

12) Our next board meeting will be April 23, at 4 PM, at The Well.

13) Jo Shim adjourned the meeting at 5:37 PM.