



League of Women Voters of Polk County, Florida
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, June 26th, 2025
The Well, 114 E. Parker Street, Lakeland FL 33801

OFFICERS:

Jo Shim, President
Open, Vice President
Katy Pace Byrd, Treasurer
Ben Graffam, Secretary

PAST PRESIDENT:

Linda Donaldson

DIRECTORS:

Charlene Bennett
Karen Freedman
Jen Cordova
Litrece Coppit

Minutes

Members in Attendance: Charlene Bennett, Katy Byrd, Litrece Coppit (Zoom), Jen Cordova, Linda Donaldson (Zoom), and Jo Shim.

Members Absent: Karen Freedman (excused) and Ben Graffam (excused).

Katy Byrd acted as Secretary for today's meeting.

- 1) Quorum was confirmed by Katy Byrd
- 2) Meeting was called to order by Jo Shim at 4:09 PM
- 3) Minutes for May's Board Meeting were approved, after adding Heather Bradman's name to the list of attendees (a non-board member).
- 4) Katy Pace Byrd delivered the Treasurer's Report, after which she, as Treasurer of LWV Polk, moved to approve the closure of LWV Polk's small checking account at MFCU (ending in -5846), to deposit the funds from that account into our larger checking account (ending in -6671), and to name her as both ATM card holder and online banking administrator for our MFCU accounts. The motion was seconded. It passed unanimously.
- 5) In Jo Shim's President's Report she asked that board members remain cognizant of Robert's Rules during meetings. Jo also asked the board to speak up whenever confusing terminology was used. She reviewed recent tabling events, outlined current grant submissions, and explained how she was transitioning voter services responsibilities.
- 6) New Business
 - a. The new 2025/2026 LWV Polk County Calendar including Dates for Board Meetings has been sent out.
 - b. Jo Shim outlined a project to consolidate committee guidance documents in a central location as well as how and when committees should make their requests of the board. This includes exploring how other leagues organize these actions. Jo suggested this might become the Committee on Committees project.
- 7) Unfinished Business
 - a. Jo, Jen, and Linda spoke of continued communication with LWVFL representatives regarding their experience and the Convention in June
 - b. Thanks were given to those who helped in the Storage Unit cleanup
 - c. 15 LWV Polk County Membership Brochures have been printed. Do we need more? Should we amend the budget to do so?
 - d. Document storage - LWV Polk Google Drive and the Gmail account
 - i. Jo Shim reported that efforts are being made to close our current Zoom account.



- ii. Jo Shim reported that The WELL contracts are now stored on the LWV Polk Google Drive.
- e. Hot Topics and other events planned for June, July and August
 - i. Gun Violence Prevention – June 24th: there was a disappointing turnout for this event, though people who were there appreciated both the information shared by the panel and the format for the evening.
 - ii. Two other events of a similar nature are coming:
 - 1. Legislative debrief with Equal Grounds July 17.
 - 2. Women’s Reproductive Health on July 22. Jen Cordova is the point person for this event. A Panel will be assembled, and a moderator is being sought.
 - iii. There will be Cocktails and Conversation with the AAUW in Lake Wales on July 24, 4:30 to 6:30 PM at The Thirsty Dragon in Lake Wales.
 - iv. An Event focused on the Restoration of Rights for Returning Felons/Citizens is under consideration for August, but more information is needed to move forward.
 - v. We may hold a Constitution Day Event and Fundraiser in September, though this, too, needs more information to be confirmed.

8) Any Other Business (AOB)

Next board meeting: July 31st, 2025, at The WELL 4pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 PM.

Special Thanks to Katy Byrd for taking the notes that served these minutes.