



League of Women Voters of Polk County
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, May 18, 2026
The Well, 114 E. Parker Street, Lakeland, Florida

Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: Kristen Carlson, Ashley Haynie, Jackye Maxey, Litreace Coppitt, Katy Byrd, Jen Cordova, Jo Shim and Pat Denham. Mike Murray was absent and Donna Daniels was excused.

1. Pat Denham confirmed a quorum
2. Jo Shim called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.
3. The board approved the April 2026 minutes
4. Katy Pace Byrd delivered the treasurer's report, including the monthly statement of activities for April, donations to date, and a detailed report on the annual meeting.
5. Jo delivered the presidents' report highlighting the following points:
 - Welcome to new board members
 - A reminder to be careful in using "reply all" to board emails, if not necessary
 - The success of our 2026 annual meeting, with thanks to all who assisted with the event
 - An update on the Equal Ground Legislative Debrief on June 4 at The Well, of which LWV Polk is a co-sponsor (Litreace Coppitt is our liaison for this event and will contact Katy regarding obtaining our \$150 sponsorship check.)
 - A call for a volunteer to manage LWV Polk's social media outlets (FB and Instagram)
 - A field trip suggestion to be considered in future
6. **Committees and Action Teams**
 - Per Kristen Carlson's suggestion, the board agreed to continue our outreach to the eastern side of Polk County.
 - Jen Cordova revisited the board's ongoing consideration of streamlining some of our action teams into one "social justice" team, which will be considered again after the board orientation on June 25.
7. **New Business**
 - a. MidFlorida Bank Account:
 - i. Jen Cordova moved that former secretary Benjamin Graffam's name be removed as signatory on the MidFlorida Credit Union (MFCU) checking account as he is no longer serving on the board. Katy seconded the motion and members present approved the motion unanimously.



- ii. Jen Cordova moved that new co-president Patricia Denham be added as signatory to the MFCU checking account. Ashley Haynie seconded the motion and members present approved the motion unanimously.
 - iii. Katy (Katherine Pace Byrd) as continuing treasurer and Jo (Josephine Shim) as continuing (co-)president will remain as the other two signatories on our checking account.
- b. The board will consider a special use of the gift from the Patricia Gill Trust after the board orientation.
- c. Jo suggested that any board members opting to order LWV Polk business cards for networking be allowed to do this, with a small amount of money having been budgeted for such supplies and/or printing. Pat will research vendors and costs.
- d. Karen Freedman and Charlene Bennett will serve as the 2027 annual meeting minutes committee, reviewing the draft of these minutes in the near future while the event is fresh in memory.
- e. The board recommended asking James Micah Jarrett to serve an appointed one-year term on the board of directors, as provided in our bylaws. Pat will contact him.
- f. The board will set goals for 2026-2027 during and/or following the June orientation, and will plan a gathering for former and new board members to take place after the orientation.
- g. Jo will identify a location for the gathering. Jo will also contact Jackye Maxey (no longer present in this meeting) regarding any collaboration with Conversations Across the Aisle for America's Pot Luck on July 5th or later this fall, as part of LWV Florida's Bringing Floridians Together initiative.

8. Unfinished Business

- a. LWV Polk County representative(s) will present a previously approved \$100 gift and thanks for its support to Beacon Hill Fellowship on a Sunday to be agreed upon, and LWV Polk County members will be encouraged to attend that service.
- b. June 2026
 - i. Jo will host a general membership Zoom meeting on June 24.
 - ii. Jen agreed to coordinate our monthly "coffee and conversation" gatherings on the last Saturday beginning on June 27 at Panera in Winter Haven at 10 am.

9. Any Other Business (AOB)

- i. Jo and Pat reported having met with Trinity Laurino, executive director of LkldNow, regarding co-sponsorship of a school board candidate forum at The Well on July 23.



- ii. LWV Polk County will also co-sponsor a virtual candidate forum for circuit court judges on June 11. Additional candidate forums will be scheduled after the August primary election.
- iii. Going forward after the June 25 orientation, the LWV Polk County board of directors will meet on the 4th Monday of every month at 5 pm. Membership meetings and Hot Topics will continue to take place on 3rd Thursdays, with Jo to coordinate dates with Mario Stone of The Well.

Jo adjourned the meeting at 6:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Denham, Co-President