



League of Women Voters of Polk County, Florida
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, April 23rd, 2026
The Well, 114 E. Parker Street, Lakeland FL 33801

Minutes

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

Non-Board Members in Attendance: Pat Denham

- 1) A Quorum was Confirmed by Ben Graffam
- 2) The Meeting was Called to Order by Jo Shim at 4:05 PM
- 3) The Minutes for the March Meeting were approved
- 4) Katy Pace Byrd delivered the Treasurer's Report
- 5) Jo Shim gave her President's Report, emphasizing:
 - a. Taylor Ashley's presentation from VoteRiders
 - b. Jo and Litreace attending planning meetings for the Equal Ground Debrief Tour
 - c. Tour of Options for Women on April 15
 - d. Chandra Frederick is our new Vote411.org leader
 - e. Encourage participation in LWVFL Council, July 11-12, 2026, at Rollins College
 - f. Rep. Canady has office hours at the Lakeland Main Library on the third Wednesday of each month from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
 - g. Talbot house withdrew their current application for the zoning change for the proposed site of a new facility on Memorial
- 6) Committees and Action Teams
 - a. While there is still interest in the creation of a generalized/social justice action team, there has also been an engaged study of our action teams and we do not want to do twice what may have been done already. Charlene Bennett and Ben Graffam will search their records/files to see if this move has already been established.
- 7) Pro Tem/Ad Hoc Committees
 - a. No new options for Meeting Places have been established.
 - b. The Nominating Committee Report recognizes that there will be nominations from the floor at our Annual Meeting, which, according to that committee, is ready to move forward. We will extend the deadline for registration for the annual meeting to Sunday, April 26.
- 8) New Business
 - a. Jo Shim has sent a thank you note to Dr. Gill's brother and Katy Pace Byrd has sent a thank you note to the trustee.



b. The idea of Business cards for board members will be tabled for the next board meeting.

9) Unfinished Business

- a. The Booklet for the Annual Meeting has raised \$2,350.00 this year. It has been paid for, and it is being printed. Ben Graffam will collect it from Minuteman Press and bring it to the Annual Meeting.
- b. Jo Shim evaluated the board goals for 2025-2026
- c. Updating the website has been tabled for the new board
- d. Jen Cordova and Ben Graffam reported on the work they and Cindy Sternlicht did regarding a protocol for acknowledging the death of a LWV PC Member
- e. **Jo Shim moved to donate \$100.00 to Beacon Hill Fellowship in appreciation for the important work and support they have provided to the LWV PC. The motion was seconded. It passed unanimously.**
- f. Review planning for Hot Topics and other events March - May 2026
 - i. Revival of Coffee/Cocktails and Conversation – Update
 - ii. April (April 21st) - Presentation by VoteRiders – Report
 - iii. Annual Meeting - May 2, 2026
 - iv. Equal Grounds Legislative Debrief Tour previously scheduled for May 7, 6-8-pm at The Well; now will be held June 4, same time.
 - v. Our May 19 Membership meeting has been cancelled, with the possible topics/events/presentation to remain: Young people in politics, Open-minded Mic Night, National Popular Vote, Legislative Update or Talbot House zoom presentation

10) Any Other Business (AOB)

- a. The LWV PC needs to sit down with Mario and Sallie Stone to finalize a contract for our use of The Well for 2026 - 2027
- b. The Proposed schedule for May/June (which may be changed by the next board):
 - i. Board meeting – May 18
 - ii. Board Orientation June 25

11) The Meeting was adjourned at 5:38 PM