



League of Women Voters of Polk County, Florida  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, November 20 2025  
The Well, 114 E. Parker Street, Lakeland FL 33801

### Minutes

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

- 1) A Quorum was confirmed by Ben Graffam
- 2) The Meeting was called to order at 4:08 PM.
- 3) The Minutes for October's meeting were approved
- 4) Katy Pace Byrd gave the Treasurer's Report, clarify that our dues to LWVUS were paid, but that we have sent a query to the LWVFL about the dues they are seeking.
- 5) President Jo Shim gave the president's report.
- 6) No committee or action areas were submitted to the board this month.
- 7) Regarding our Committees:
  - a. **Katy Pace Byrd moved to change the use of "Committees" to "Action Teams" for our committees with the exception of our executive, nominating, budget, and bylaws committees. The motion was seconded. It passed unanimously.**
  - b. **Karen Freedman moved to shift the now named "Climate Action Team" from its sub-level under the Environmental Action Team to a self-standing team of its own. The motion was seconded. It passed unanimously.**
  - c. While the Leadership Training Action Team will remain active, it will not need to be an agenda item for the time being.
- 8) New Business
  - a. **Jo Shim moved to set a meeting date for all LWV members interested in forming a new Education Action Team. The motion was seconded. Discussion suggested that she and Linda Donaldson would meet to create that list of members. The motion passed unanimously.**
  - b. The Annual Meeting Booklet will remain as a "business document," designed solely use at the Annual Meeting. More advertisements may be sought, especially those of the \$100.00 business card size.



- c. Without the need of a motion, it was determined that the Newsletter should be viewed by the President and one other board member, each month, prior to being sent to membership. The Communications Action Team will make that happen by alphabetizing the board members for rotation.
- d. The Communications Action Team will continue to move forward on a revision of the Local Program for the Annual Booklet. They will also keep a team of five LWVPolk members—Sandy Sheets, Trudy Rankin, Nancy Simmons, Carole Essy, and Eileen Swiler—informed of changes. The Communications Action Team will also seek from that team insights on how to present the revisions to members at the Annual Meeting.
- e. We are still encouraging as many league members as possible to attend the LWVFL Lobby Days. We have some money budgeted that will be used as a subsidy for each of the attendees.

#### 9) Unfinished Business

- a. The MLK Parade will occur on January 17<sup>th</sup> 2026.
  - i. We will have a Signup sheet at Holiday party and January planning meeting. There may be one in the December Newsletter.
  - ii. We will be ordering T-shirts, which, though out of budget, should take care of themselves at our suggested donation is slightly higher than the cost of the shirts.
- b. Jo Shim shared with the board a table showing how our annual Board Goals are being accomplished
- c. We looked ahead regarding meetings, Hot Topics, and other events, December 2025 - March 2026:
  - i. December – Holiday party – Date: December 11<sup>th</sup>
    - 1. Honorarium for GJHS Chorus program
  - ii. January – Planning meeting – Date: January 8 (Planned)
    - 1. Revival of Cocktails and Conversation
    - 2. Charlene mentioned the January 4 AAUW meeting in Lake Wales with the RBG impersonator.
  - iii. February – Fundraiser: Love the League - Date: TBA
  - iv. March – TBA
  - v. April – TBA
  - vi. Annual Meeting May 2<sup>nd</sup> – We have heard back from Diane Roberts and Craig Pittman, both interesting in being our speaker, both with small



demands regarding their appearance. Ben Graffam informed both that we would make contact with them after Thanksgiving.

- d. The telephone tree seems to be functioning well, with some board members using the telephone and others texting to members about our coming events. We do need to discuss how we want to move forward with this practice, how we might understand its effectiveness.

10) Any Other Business (AOB)

- a. Jen Cordova updated us on the Letter Writing Campaign for HB 6001

11) Next board meeting: January, 29 at 4pm

12) The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM