



League of Women Voters of Polk County, Florida
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, September 25th, 2025
The Well, 114 E. Parker Street, Lakeland FL 33801

Minutes

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

Board Members Absent: Heather Bradman (excused).

- 1) *A Quorum* was Confirm Quorum by Ben Graffam
- 2) The meeting was Called to Order by Jo Shim at 4:01 PM.
- 3) The minutes from the Board Meetings of June and July were approved.
- 4) Jo Shim delivered a brief Treasurer's Report for Katy Pace Byrd, who needed to arrive late to the meeting.
- 5) To help keep our meeting shorter, Jo referenced that she had sent a President's Report to the Board Members via email.
- 6) The only committee to have compiled a report for this meeting was the Voter Services Committee, and that had been sent to all Board Members prior to the meeting.
- 7) Pro Tem Committees
 - a. A report on the Committee on Committees was tabled until the October meeting.
 - b. The Leadership Training Committee is now chaired by Ben Graffam alone.
 - c. Jo Shim delivered the report for the Municipal Elections Committee, focused on the municipal elections on November 4.
- 8) New Business
 - a. We have tabled the Election of a Board member to serve on the 2025-2026 Nominating Committee until next meeting, though Linda Donaldson has agreed to be "first alternate" for appointment to that post.
 - b. **Katy Pace Byrd moved for the LWV Polk to Participate in the MLK Parade on January 17, that we should pay the requisite fees and that the MLK Parade should become an agenda item for each of the next three meetings. The motion was seconded. It passed unanimously.**
 - c. **Jen Cordova moved to insert a Permanent Hospitality Committee into the new organizational structure developed by the Committee on Committees, for the purpose of taking over the social elements of our Hot Topic and**



other membership events. The motion was seconded. It passed unanimously.

- i.* Jo Shim, Ben Graffam, and Karen Freedman each agreed to be a part of that Hospitality Committee, though each also chose not to be its chair. It was suggested this committee could work without a chairperson.
- d.* Jo Shim outlined the details for the LWVFL Day of Action on October 4, to be held at the Jackson Branch of the Lakeland Library System.

9) Unfinished Business

- a.* Ben Graffam updated the Board on the on-going status for the Annual Meeting booklet. All Board Members are to present brief bios to Cindy Sternlicht very soon.
- b.* Linda Donaldson is overseeing a New Member Orientation on Sunday, September 28, from 2:00-4:00pm at Beacon Hill Fellowship.
- c.* Review planning for Hot Topics and other events October 2025 - March 2026
 - i.* There will be an "Everyone Deserves a Second Chance" Hot Topic Event on October 7 at The Well, with a panel discussion, league presentations, and a brief social meet and greet.
 - ii.* Two events are on the horizon, though both need further design: November 13 – Immigration in Polk County and December 11 – Holiday Party
 - iii.*

10) Any Other Business (AOB)

- a.* Ben Graffam reminded all Board Members to repeat their contact calls from the Telephone Tree that was distributed two weeks ago. This time the event is the October 7 Restoration of Rights Hot Topic at the Well.

11) Next board meeting: Thursday, October 23rd at 4pm

12) Jo Shim adjourned the meeting at 5:05 PM.