

League of Women Voters of Frederick County, MD

March 16, 2026 Board Meeting

Attended Virtually: Rosanne Roe, George Carroll, Jill Griffith, Karen Paris, Lauri Gross, Kate Jones, Margaret Hindman, Peggy Durbin, Sue Kunkel, Nannette Hobson, Ellen West, Vicki Sheppard, Mary Sue Krause, Tammy Page.

Call to Order: 5:02pm Kate Jones called the meeting to order.

Minutes: Voting on the February minutes was tabled by voice vote to allow adequate time to review the minutes.

Annual Meeting: Kate stated that the Annual Report of the Board for the 2026 Annual Meeting on April 18 (12pm-3pm) needed to be addressed before the meeting agenda. She said that she had gotten feedback from Jill Griffith and Ellen West, who indicated that they thought the report looked good and had given her some typo corrections. George Carroll asked if the report includes a budget and Kate indicated that it does. Although not a lot of people have signed up for the meeting on Signup Genius, it was also agreed that food would be provided since the league has the room at the Thurmont Library until 3pm.

Voting: Kate noted that 26 percent of the membership is required to vote on most issues, but two-thirds of the members are required to make bylaws changes. Sue Kunkel said that she thought the bylaws permitted voting by proxy online using Google forms, if two-thirds of the members do not attend the meeting in person. Someone would just have to keep track of the votes and prove that there is a quorum. Officers can also be nominated in person or online but not by proxy.

Committee Reports: The Report of the Auditor looked the same as last year and the Membership Report looked good. Jill noted that, as of March 16, the league has 131 members, but that may change by the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee Report looked good, but Margaret Hindman noted that Deborah Cerullo asked to be taken off the board. Also, Linda Norris-Waldt will not be joining the Nominating Committee. Three members are elected to the Nominating Committee, and two members are appointed by the board. Jill indicated that she would be willing to join the Nominating Committee.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Kunkel raised the issue of the league's fiscal year, which was changed in the bylaws at the 2024 Annual Meeting to start on January 1, not April 1. However, this change was not implemented, and the league is still operating on a fiscal year that begins on April 1. Since the league's annual meeting is held in April, Sue recommended and it was agreed by voice vote that the beginning of the fiscal year will remain April 1, which would still require a bylaws change by two-thirds vote, to return the fiscal year back to April 1. Sue also noted that the league has finished paying its Per Member Payments (PMPs), so that language can be taken out of the bylaws.

Electing Officers: Since members of the board will be elected at the annual meeting, next discussed were officers' terms. The board has 5 elected officers (President, 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer) and 6 elected directors. There are also directors who can be appointed at any time during the year and there is leeway on how many can be appointed. This next year, however, the board will have 2 Co-Presidents and 2 Vice Presidents, who all can serve 1-2 years. Directors can also serve 1-2 years, but 2 years are preferable. The Secretary and Treasurer serve 2 years. The board agreed that the bylaws should change to reflect that the board consists of the officers, and that all the officers shall serve 1- or 2-year terms.

Program Changes: Margaret proposed some changes to the program for the annual meeting. She noted that committees are working on some, but not all, of the issues that the league advocates for and this should be clarified for the membership. For example, one of the league's areas of advocacy is protecting natural resources. While none of the committees are working on this issue per se, the league has recently promoted signing the petition for a referendum on reducing the amount of land made available for building data centers in the county. This is also an example of the league promoting representative government.

Speakers: Kate asked whether the league has received confirmation from the speakers for the annual meeting. Jill responded that Stuart Harvey has confirmed that he is coming to speak, but there has been no confirmation from Cesar Diaz. Jill agreed to check with Cesar to confirm that he still plans to speak at the meeting.

Voter Services/Forums: Nannette Hobson stated that it is urgent to hold a small group meeting to plan the candidate forums, because given the number of candidates running in the mid-terms, the league may need to run up to 22 forums. There are at least two candidates for every race. Only 16 candidates are running unopposed. Republicans are running in every race.

Fourteen candidates are running for two positions on the School Board. In fact, the School Board race may be the most contentious of the races. The league may have to hold two forums for that race, because so many candidates are running for School Board. Even for such offices as Judge of the Orphan's Court, 3 Democrats and 3 Republicans are running. Many forums are being held by other organizations, especially for District 6 candidates, so the league may decide to forgo a forum for the District 6 elections.

In addition, given the number of available volunteers, the league will have to carefully prioritize what it tries to accomplish and how. The forum questions need to be finalized soon, and invitations sent out before the end of March, because the primary is on June 23. The forums should be held in the latter part of April. Nannette has found tech teams and moderators for the forums, but she recommends that the league partner with other organizations to put on the forums. She also suggested that some of the forums can be held virtually.

Sue Kunkel, Lauri Gross, Ellen West, and Jill agreed to meet with Nannette on March 23 to help plan the forums. Afterward, the group will send a proposal to the board on how the league should

conduct the forums. Jill also noted that some members who responded to the member survey said that they are interested in working on forums.

Voter Services/Voters' Guide/Vote411: Lauri has had a full team working with her on the Voters' Guide (Mary Sue Krause, Suzanne Beal, Esther Ziegler, Jill Griffith, Sue Kunkel, Karen Paris, Ellen West, and Anne Garrett), including work finalizing the questions. Ellen offered to help with the School Board questions. On March 2, invitations with questions were sent to the candidates. The current deadline for receiving the candidates' responses is March 20. So far, 37 candidates have submitted their responses, but 90 have not responded. Follow-up calls and emails have been and continue to be done to ensure that as many responses as possible are received from the candidates by the deadline.

Events: George said that he checked on tabling at a Frederick Keys baseball game. The only way the league can table at a game is if it buys 100 tickets at \$7 each, so tabling at a game is too expensive. Sue Kunkel indicated that she would be sending out the current schedule for 2026 tabling events. She also noted that she has enough volunteers for the Frederick summer concerts.

The league plans to table at Frederick First Saturdays held May, June, and September, because these events get lots of traffic. The first Saturday in July is on July 4 and the first Saturday in August is when the Indonesian Festival will be held. The league is registered for tabling at In the Street, Railroad Days, Asia on the Creek, Pride Festival, and Pride Parade. George asked whether the league is tabling for Juneteenth and Sue indicated that she had not yet heard from Delta Sigma Theta about that event.

Kate noted the U.S. League of Women Voters is partnering with the No Kings organization on the nationwide protest against authoritarian government on March 28. The LWVFC will have a table at the event at the Frederick City rally and, if they wish, all league members can wear their league gear to the event.

Girl Scouts: Karen Paris brought the board up to date on the Girl Scout Democracy Badge event to be held on March 29. So far, twenty girls have signed up for the program. Besides herself, Karen has 7 volunteers (George, Kate, Karen's husband, Patti Connor, Mary Mills, and Kari Richards), but she still needs 3 more volunteers. Karen would like to have one subject matter expert at each table. The legislative part of the program has enough volunteers. Kate has volunteered for the judicial part of the program. George indicated that he has no preference for which table he covers.

The Girl Scouts will handle registration. Handouts and league stickers will be made available to the girls. A Zoom call will be held with Girls Scouts on March 26 to finalize plans for the program. Karen would like to have a representative from local government, such as a City or County Council member, attend the event and talk to the girls. Lauri suggested a Walkersville Commissioner might be a possibility. Kate said that someone on the School Board, like Casey Day, might also be willing to come speak, especially since the school board elections are nonpartisan. Other options include Chris Fair or Tiffany Grant, who is running for an at-large county office and is a member of the league.

Additional options include Cesar Diaz or Stuart Harvey, who could talk about noncitizen voting and how to prepare for elections.

Publicity: Lauri indicated that she will be sending out press releases on the forums and Vote411/Voters' Guide, once they are finalized.

Ethics Community: Mary Sue stated that she had nothing new to report for the Ethics Committee.

Observer Corps/BOE: Lauri submitted a written summary of the March 4 Board of Elections meeting. The BOE's lawyer reviewed the ongoing lawsuits against the BOE for allegations of voting impropriety. Barbara Wagner reported on the board's ongoing work to keep the voter rolls up to date and the county's voting equipment inspected and evaluated. BOE staff are making presentations around the county about voting. The BOE is also still recruiting and training election judges.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Kunkel indicated the league's Beginning Balance for February was \$13,235 and the Ending Balance was \$12,520. The league made a payment of \$425 for MyLO Web Hosting and a payment of \$350 for translation services for the Voters' Guide and VOTE411. Kate noted that buying Nation Builder might be an option for the league. Sue Kunkel knows Nation Builder, while Kate knows MyLO. The league would need a domain name and two licenses, one for .com and one for .org. Kate went ahead and paid the annual fee of \$25 for each.

Membership Report: Jill noted that, as of the board meeting, the league has 131 members with 3 new members since the last meeting. The Membership Committee will meet on March 24 to discuss the process for follow-ups with expired and almost expired members. Jill continues to send new members to committee chairs based on their responses to the member survey questions. She also noted that at the next Membership Meeting, there will be a presentation on procedures for community tabling.

Ranked-Choice Voting: Margaret stated that the goal for implementing ranked-choice voting in Frederick City is now 2028-2030. She intends to continue her work advocating for RCV with Frederick City Council members. James Courtney, who is an expert on ranked-choice voting, would like to speak at a league board or membership meeting about RCV. Margaret emphasized that members who table should be trained on RCV, so they can speak with the public on this issue. She thought that James could provide RCV talking points that the league could then develop into a handout.

Miscellaneous: Peggy Durbin brought up the status of the display for the Middletown Library on the history of the LWV, how it grew out of the women's suffrage movement, and how the organization continues to educate voters on candidates and work to protect voting rights. George stated that the display still has to be installed and the team is waiting on some photos. Kate noted that, if this display is successful, all the county's libraries might be interested in doing a similar display.

Kate mentioned that the league is speaking before various groups. She has an engagement at Buckingham's Choice to speak about the League of Women Voters. The league will also be speaking at the C. Burr Artz Library on either June 2 or 24 about the voting process. Peggy and Patti

Connor have expressed an interest in this speaking engagement, but if anyone else is interested, let Kate know. Ellen said she was interested in speakers on the Apple Ballot. Kate suggested that she contact Barbara Daniels, because she has recently secured some speakers on the issue for Rise Up Frederick.

On May 9, there is a meeting of the LWVMD Presidents.

Kate also mentioned again that the league has budgeted for three voting delegates to attend LWVUS Annual Convention on June 25-28 in Columbus, Ohio. Kate plans to attend in person at her own expense. George also plans to attend virtually.

Adjourned: 6:27pm Kate adjourned the meeting. Submitted by Rosanne Roe, Secretary.