League of Women Voters of Frederick County
February 16, 2026 Board Meeting

Attended in Person: Kate Jones, Jamie Wilson, Sarah Weishampel, Suzanne Beal, Deborah Cerullo, Margaret Hindman, Mary Sue Krause, Lauri Gross, Sue Kunkel.
Attended Virtually: Rosanne Roe, Barbara Schectman, Jill Griffith, Peggy Durbin, Nannette Hobson, George Carroll, Karen Paris, Ginnie Kiesewetter.
Call to Order: 5:01pm Kate Jones called the meeting to order.

Minutes: Lauri Gross moved to accept the minutes with the change she sent Rosanne Roe about the DC Radio story on the league. The minutes with that change were accepted unanimously.

Annual Meeting: Kate stated that the purpose of the Annual Meeting is to enroll new members, review programming, provide reports on last year's activities, give the Treasurer's Report, select new leadership, and pass Bylaws changes. All committee reports for the Workbook must be received by Thursday, February 19, so the Workbook can be sent to members in March.

The meeting will have the standard agenda and script, with some members speaking. Last year, Kate, Nannette Hobson, Patti Connor, and Sue Kunkel spoke. Kate would like to set two dates for the Annual Meeting to provide maximum scheduling flexibility in obtaining a speaker.

Margaret Hindman reviewed the Nominating Committee's Report with the slate of candidates to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Running for Co-Presidents are Sue Kunkel (2-year term) and George Carroll (1-year term); for First Vice President, Nannette Hobson (1-year term) and for Second Vice President, Kate Jones (2-year term); and for Treasurer, Sue Kunkel (2-year term). Lauri and Betty Mayfield will be nominated as Elected Directors (both 2-year terms). Rosanne Roe's term as Secretary continues through April 30, 2027. Elected Directors Jill Griffith's and Ellen West's terms continue through April 30, 2027. Nominations for Appointed Directors include Deborah Cerullo, Peggy Durbin, Sue Krause, Karen Paris, and Barbara Schectman (all 1-year terms). The Nominating Committee includes Suzanne Beal, Margaret Hindman (Chair), and Sarah Matthews (all 1-year terms).

Margaret noted that the Bylaws were changed at the 2025 Annual Meeting to allow both the President and Vice Presidents the option of serving either 1- or 2-year terms. However, other officers and elected directors must serve 2-year terms. A motion was made to accept the Nominating Committee's Report with its slate of candidates and it was approved with no objections.

Membership: Jill Griffith reviewed the Membership Report. The league has 129 members; 11 new members since the January board meeting; and 24 expired members. Jill has joined an online membership leaders group organized by the LWVUS. In one exchange, participants advocated for a tool to notify leagues when memberships have expired and automatic email alerts are sent out. This would help membership committees better track membership status.

Jill reported that the January 24 membership meeting was successful, with 25 in-person sign-ins and 11 others who registered, but didn't attend. They all received an email about the league, inviting them to join. The meeting included committee tables, activities, and events. Ideas for the next membership meeting were discussed, including a panel of representatives from local activist organizations whose missions overlap with the league's. Cesar Diaz was also suggested as a speaker, although he has already been invited to speak at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

Events: Patti Connor was not present at the meeting, but Sue Kunkel noted that she is still looking for volunteers for the Summer Concert series held in Baker Park in Frederick. She indicated that so far three people have signed up for that event.

Girl Scouts: Karen Paris reported that the Democracy Badge program for the Girl Scouts on March 29 from 1:30-4:30pm is all set. It will be held in the C. Burr Artz Library's Community Room, setup will

begin at 1pm when the library opens, and refreshments will be served. Karen and Kate will be having a Zoom meeting with the Girl Scouts at the beginning of March to make sure everything is in place for the program. Kate stated that, while this is the league's first Girl Scout badge event, it would be great if it could be held twice a year.

The program will begin with an overview of the League of Women Voters and the Electoral College. It will include five stations focusing on local and state governments and the three branches of government (judicial, legislative, executive) and each station will have about 10 girls.

Frederick City and surrounding areas have about 800 Girl Scouts. This program will be well attended, because the Democracy Badge can be obtained in one day. Several volunteers are needed to help with this program. After Karen and Kate have had their Zoom call with the Girl Scouts, Kate will send out a request for volunteers to the membership. Karen also hopes to get Hood College alumni to help out.

Voter Services/Forums: Nannette Hobson noted that filing deadline to announce a candidacy for the mid-terms is February 19 and the primaries will be robust. The league will host several forums, either in person or virtually. There will be 12 candidates for the Board of Education alone, requiring at least three virtual or in-person forums.

Furthermore, given the number of competitive races, Nannette estimated that the league will hold at least 11 in-person forums. For example, David Trone and April McLain Delaney, candidates for the District 6, will have an in-person forum, which will require a big hall. District 3 and 4 will also have an in-person forum. For those running unopposed, the league may hold a virtual Meet-the-Candidate forum. Kate plans to provide technical assistance for the forums and Nannette has settled on most of the venues, including Hood College and a Frederick Church. She plans to send out forum invitations to candidates as soon as the filing deadline has closed.

As in the past, each candidate at a forum will get the same questions to answer and there will be no debate or Q&A. Forums tend to have low attendance, with a maximum of 20 in attendance. A recording of each forum is also posted on YouTube, so those interested can listen to the forums at their own convenience. Nannette is interested in expanding the audiences for the forums, which Lauri Gross can help her with.

Voter Services/Voters' Guide/Vote411: Lauri indicated that her team has developed the candidate questions for the Voters' Guide, which basically amount to a job description for each candidate. Jill, Sue Kunkel, and Lauri attended the LWV meeting on Vote411. On March 2, invitations will go out to candidates to respond to the questions. The team is also working on getting the front part of the Voters' Guide translated into Spanish. The guide for the primaries will be published only online.

Publicity: DC News Now TV, covering DC, Maryland, and Virginia, did a story on the league. The next press releases to be sent out will cover the forums, Vote411, and the Voters' Guide.

Ethics Committee: Mary Sue Krause stated that a vacancy is expected on the Ethics Commission this spring and the Nominating Committee will hold a meeting to start recruiting possible candidates for the position.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Kunkel reported that the league had a January 2026 Starting Balance of $14,648 and Ending Balance of $13,235. The league paid half of its per member payment (PMP), which was $1,472. The league also had two transfers from the Education Fund totaling $5,051. Sue noted that the league is in a good position to cover its expenses for the primaries, including for the ASL interpreters for the forums.

Observer Corps/PAB: The Frederick County Police Accountability Board sent its Annual Report to Frederick County Executive, Jessica Fitzwater, and the County Council; Frederick City Mayor, Michael

O'Connor; and others. The report identifies trends in the disciplinary process for police officers in the county. It also recommends changes to policy that would improve police accountability.

Observer Corps/BOE: Lauri indicated that, at its last meeting, Board of Elections Director Barbara Wagner reported on the steps they are taking to prepare for the mid-term elections, including ensuring voter rolls and voting machines are in good shape and in state compliance. Ongoing, several groups are surging the BOE, claiming fraud or other issues.

Data Centers: Margaret Hindman brought up the petition circulating in Frederick County that requests a referendum to be placed on the mid-term ballot about building data centers in the county. Essentially, the referendum would require that further study of the environmental and community impacts of data centers be undertaken before permits are issued. The board discussed whether the league could support the petition and circulate it to the membership, raise the issue at the Annual Meeting, place it on social media and its website, or reference it in a letter to the editor. Margaret noted that the league already has a position on land use, so this could be considered part of its mission under that position. Decision on the issue was tabled until the board could discuss it further.

Miscellaneous: Kate attended the LWVMD Presidents' Meeting. At that meeting, Executive Director Nikki Tyree discussed the League of Conservation Voters, which has obtained a grant to conduct local candidate forums. While the LCV has been a reliable partner with the LWV in the past, Nikki is concerned that, if its forums are scheduled before the LWV's forums, that may affect candidate and voter participation in LWV forums. Nikki urged local leagues to be alert to any LCV forums scheduled before theirs and to not share materials on the league's policies and procedures for conducting forums.

The LWVMD has developed a Reasons to Vote digital-ready flyer, which can be printed, posted, emailed, or shared with anyone for distribution. The flyer lists reasons to vote in the primaries on one side and key dates for the primaries on the other. The LWVMD has also developed a Book Talk flyer for Women's History Day, about Jeanette Rankin, the first woman elected to Congress.

The LWVUS will hold its Annual Convention on June 26 in Columbus, OH. The LWVFC has budgeted monies for 3 delegates to attend, either in person or virtually. Kate plans to attend virtually and cover the cost of her attendance.

George Carroll suggested that the league do something focusing on voting rights to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Hood College and Frederick Community College are planning programs and lectures celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary. The board agreed with George's proposal and Kate suggested forming a committee to implement the proposal. However, the board also concluded that the league will not participate in this year's History Fair in Frederick.

The LWVUS is partnering with the nationwide No Kings Day on March 28 and may table at the Frederick rally. A shout out was given for the students of Urbana and Frederick City High Schools, who staged protests in opposition to the aggressive enforcement tactics being used by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

Adjourned: 6:16pm Kate adjourned the meeting. Submitted by Rosanne Roe, Secretary.