

**League of Women Voters of Frederick County, MD**  
**Board Meeting Minutes, September 16, 2024**

**In attendance in person:** Katherine Jones, Jim Filson, Mike Bunitsky, Sue Kunkel.

**In attendance virtually:** Rosanne Roe, Peggy Durbin, Rosemary Orthmann, Suzy Bailey, Frances Kelley, George Carroll, Mary Beth Coker, Ellen West, Lauri Gross, Margaret Hindman.

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

**Minutes:** George Carroll moved that the August 19, 2024, minutes be accepted, and Ellen West seconded the motion, so the minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sue Kunkel reported that the league's balance at the beginning of the month was \$9,384. After adding one membership fee (\$60) and various expenses, including \$100 fee to file Articles of Revival, \$50 registration fee for Brunswick Railroad Days, and \$966 for 1,500 LWVUS membership brochures, the league's ending balance for the month was \$8,290. Kate is having labels with LWVFC contact information applied to the LWVUS brochures. The league also plans to pay for the Voters' Guide Spanish translation from the current budget. After adding in \$1,299 from the Educational Fund, the league's total month-end assets are \$9,589. The board accepted the Treasurer's Monthly Report for August 2024.

**Membership:** Kate mentioned that the league has gained 3 new members since the August meeting, bringing membership up to almost 100. She is providing brochures and sign-in sheets for all fall events to track any individual who expresses interest in joining the league, so the league can follow-up on leads for new members. Kate also mentioned that a member of the hearing-impaired community has contacted her about getting involved in the LWVFC and she plans to follow-up on this inquiry. However, for any joint effort to occur, the league would need an interpreter's help, which is expensive. Mary Beth Coker mentioned that she has a friend who teaches at Gallaudet University and Mary Beth will check with her to see if the professor knows any student who might volunteer as a translator for the league. Mary Beth also mentioned that closed captioning is available if the league can't find a volunteer translator. However, Kate indicated that an interpreter would be a better option, especially for Forums.

**Voter Services (Events):** Kate noted that George Carroll and Mike Bunitsky are doing an excellent job organizing voter registration tables at county high schools. George noted that traffic at the tables has been heavy, and volunteers have often spoken with up to 40-50 students. Frequently 3-4 students have applied to become election judges, 5-6 students have taken or completed registration forms, and up to 8 students have taken mail-in forms or scanned the QR code that takes them to the on-line registration form. Mike mentioned that George is doing a great job tracking the data for each high school tabling event on a spreadsheet. In fact, Mike mentioned that the University of Maryland has contacted him about the LWVFC's high school voter registration program. The university is interested in receiving the final data for this program. Kate plans to track data from all fall events on the Google calendar of events, so the high school tabling data will be added to the calendar. George stated that he plans to draft a statement about the events, which principals can read over the loudspeaker on the morning of the events. George picked up 50 more voter registration forms from the BOE but was told that that was the last stack of forms available to the league for this election. Mike Bunitsky also noted that the date for the Middletown High School table must be changed from October 3, when the school is closed for Rosh Hashanah, to October 11. Kate noted that traffic at the library tables and talks on the Electoral College have so far been slow, with no one showing up for some events. Kate has created a flyer listing all Electoral College talks planned for county libraries and has sent it to the librarians to post on announcements boards. She has also posted this flyer on the league's website and FB page. Kate noted that, when Anthony Gutierrez stopped by the league's table at the Frederick Move Your Vote Forward event, he noted that voter registration in Frederick County is high, so registering new voters might be difficult. One possible event that Kate has not found a volunteer for is a voter registration table at the Seton Center Food Bank. If no volunteer is available, another option is to have a short Voting 101 program streaming on a television screen for guests as they stand in line for their food. Sue Kunkel mentioned that Tim May of 930WFMD radio hosts a show every Thursday from 3-6pm, including on October 3, where guests have an opportunity to give a short talk as part of Up the Creek Party, In the Streets, and Sweeties on the Creek festival. The show is nonpartisan and might be an opportunity for LWVFC to give an elevator speech about its upcoming events and Forums.

**Voter Services (Forums):** Jim gave an update on the upcoming Forums. Led by Nannette Hobson and himself, the league is planning two in-person Forums this fall. Both will be co-hosted by LWVFC and Hood College. The college will provide technical assistance for the Forums in their state-of-the-art Hodson Auditorium. The Forums will be streamed live on YouTube and recorded for future viewing. On October 6 at 2pm, the league will hold its first Forum for the candidates for Maryland's 6th Congressional District, April McClain-Delaney and Neil Parrott. On October 20 at 2pm, the league will hold its second Forum for the six candidates for the county Board of Education (Josh Bokee, Veronica Lowe, Janie Monier, Chad King Wilson, Sr, Colt Black, and Jaime Brennan). The candidates will have an opportunity to meet with prospective voters and display their campaign materials before the Forums begin at 3pm. A question arose about Heather Fletcher's inclusion in the Voters' Guide and Forum. Although in the primary Heather was not voted into the top six candidate pool for the BOEd, she has completed the paperwork to be a write-in candidate on the final ballot. Based on the advice from the LWVMD, the board voted unanimously not to include her in the Voters' Guide or Forum. The board then adopted a policy that the league would only include candidates printed on the final ballot in its Voters' Guide and Forums. Furthermore, former Brunswick City Council member Chris Vigliotti has asked to participate in the second Forum when he also does not appear on the final ballot as a candidate and that request was also denied. Jim moved that the LWVFC have a written policy that only those candidates printed on the final ballot would be invited to participate in the league's

Voters' Guide and Forums. George seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by voice vote. Another candidate for the BOEd, Veronica Lowe, asked to have the Forum questions 3-5 days in advance. As a practice, LWVFC and LWVMD do not to give Forum candidates questions in advance. Jim moved that the LWVFC have a written policy to that effect, Rosanne Roe seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote. In the future, any invitation to participate in a Forum will include a statement that as a policy the league does not provide questions to candidates in advance. Jim also noted that at least two participants must show up for a Forum to proceed. He does not anticipate that this will be a problem. Jim also indicated that he has been trying to form partnerships with neighboring county leagues to work together on Forum efforts. So far, the Washington County league and Garrett, Alleghany, Carroll, Cecil, and Charles County league (these latter counties form one league) have agreed to partner with LWVFC, but he has not yet reached the Montgomery County league to inquire about a possible partnership.

**Publicity:** Lauri mentioned again that *SASS Magazine* has published a story on the league's work, as has *Stroll Ijamsville*. The *Frederick Magazine* interviewed both Kate and Lauri for their October issue. The *Brunswick News Journal* will run a story on the league in its October issue. On September 18 at 5:30pm, Lauri will give a talk on the Electoral College at the Brunswick Library. Again, the flyer Kate created shows the schedule of other county library talks.

**Other Topics:** Ellen West, who is scheduled to table at Catocin and Tuscarora High Schools, asked for contact information for fellow volunteers in the event she is unable to participate. That information is on the Google drive and generally is kept confidential. Mike Bunitsky told Ellen that he will send her his contact information. In addition, Kate said that she will put Board members' email addresses and telephone numbers on the Google drive. Frances Kelley wanted to confirm her shift time for the Hispanic Festival on October 5 and Sue Kunkel said that she would send a reminder of shift schedules to all event volunteers. The area where the most volunteers are needed is for set-up and tear-down. Kate indicated that volunteers are still needed to hand out VOTE411 cards at railroad stations and Rosanne indicated that she has that covered for the Brunswick railroad station. Sue Kunkel asked that everyone send her the value of their in-kind donations, since as treasurer she needs to keep track of those amounts. Kate also mentioned that there are still a few VOTE411 T-shirts available (2 Smalls, one XL, and one XXL) and anyone who would like to have one should let her know.

**Adjourned:** 6:05pm Kate adjourned the meeting.  
Submitted by Secretary Rosanne Roe.