

**League of Women Voters of Frederick County, MD**  
**Board Meeting Minutes, March 17, 2025**

**Attending in Person:** Ellen West, Patti Connor, Kate Jones, Lauri Gross, Jill Griffith, Peggy Durbin, Matthew Beyers, Teddy Galloway, Maggie Rolston, Sue Krause, Sue Kunkel.

**Attending Virtually:** Nannette Hobson, Marianne Eldridge, Rosanne Roe, George Carroll, Barbara Schectman, Jan Goodman, Karen Paris.

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

**Guests:** Patti Connor introduced Matt Beyers and Teddy Galloway from the Maryland Forward Party, who explained the party's mission and approach to advocacy. The party positions itself as neither right nor left. Instead of focusing on policy-based platforms, the party pursues values-based problem-solving for the country's future. It also seeks common ground among stakeholders who are dissatisfied with the two major parties. The party's founding co-chairs include former presidential candidate Andrew Yang (D), cable TV executive Michael Willner, and former NJ Governor Christine Todd Whitman (R). The national Forward Party has gained official status as a party, which requires obtaining 10,000 signatures over a two-year period, in Utah, Florida, and Colorado. It is seeking that status in other states, including Pennsylvania and Virginia. Janie Monier (Frederick County, MD, Board of Education) has affiliate status in the party, as does James Kole (Laurel City, MD, City Council). MD 6th District Congresswoman April Delaney started, but has not completed, the affiliate application process. The party is seeking to partner with the League of Women Voters on its various activities. Patti clarified that the LWV is nonpartisan, so LWVFC would probably not be able to partner with the Maryland Forward Party. She asked whether the party is concerned about becoming a spoiler in elections by taking votes away from the two main parties. Matt conceded that that is a possibility. Teddy gave a personal testimonial about how younger people, including Gen Z and Millennials, feel left out of the political process, because they do not identify with either main political party. As a younger

person, he thinks the Maryland Forward Party has the answers for how the country can move beyond its current political divisions. Nannette Hobson suggested that the party can reach young people by speaking to high schools and colleges and posting on social media apps like TikTok and Instagram. Maggie Rolston, an LWVFC intern from Hood College, agreed with Nannette and said students are looking for new options as they start to vote.

**Minutes:** Lauri Gross made a motion to accept the February 17, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes, Ellen seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sue Kunkel stated that the LWVFC had no expenses in February 2025 and received \$106 in dues. Its Education Fund stands at \$2,880 and its Total Financial Assets, at \$8,964.

**Membership:** Jill Griffith stated that she has reached out to the Girl Scouts through a friend about partnering with them to gain new members, but has not heard back from them. The league has a formal collaboration agreement with the Girl Scouts for their Civics Badges.

**Events:** Ellen West reviewed plans for the December 2025 Legislative Breakfast. Linda Norris Waldt is working on the breakfast with Ellen. The date and location for the breakfast need to be determined and the board needs to allocate \$800 for the space and equipment. Board members can help supply the food, plates, and utensils. Nannette suggested that the Asbury Methodist Church is a possible venue, and she would be happy to check on that venue for Ellen and Linda. Ellen made a motion for the Board to allocate a maximum of \$800 for the December 2025 Legislative Breakfast, Patti seconded the motion, and the board approved the motion by voice vote. Ellen also asked whether the LWVFC plans to participate in the Hands Off! March on April 5 in Frederick or Washington, DC. Kate noted that the board would have to review a full list of sponsors to determine whether that is possible. She also noted that, as long as members are not representing the LWVFC, they can participate in any rallies as individuals. Patti reviewed with the board the revised spreadsheet containing all league 2025 events, dates, fees, leads, staff, and contacts. She plans to add

changes to the spreadsheet sent to her after the deadline. She also noted that the board has already approved several events on the spreadsheet, but some events have yet to be approved. Sue Kunkel stated that the July 4 County Fair is too expensive for tabling, but she would cover May 3 Asia on the Creek and June 28 PRIDE Festival.

**Voter Services:** Lauri noted that she is talking to the FNP about the possibility of producing a Voters' Guide for the 2025 Frederick City elections in partnership with the FNP. LWFVC would have to pay LWFVUS \$300 to use the VOTE411 online administrative portal, and Lauri is not yet sure what the LWFVC would get for that \$300, so it is an ongoing conversation. Patti offered to approach UUCF for \$500 to pay for the Spanish translation of the Voters' Guide. Maggie has collected Frederick County municipality ordinances and charters and has made a list of county municipal election dates. Brunswick will hold elections in August 2026; Burkittsville, June 2, 2025; Emmitsburg, September 30, 2025; Frederick, September 9 and November 5, 2025; Middletown tbd; Mount Airy, May 6, 2025; Myersville tbd; Thurmont, October 28, 2025; Walkersville tbd; New Market, April 28 and May 13, 2025; Rosemont, May 3, 2025; and Woodsboro, May 10, 2025. Lauri noted that the Board of Elections has a link to all county municipal election dates, which should help Maggie quickly complete this list. Lauri also noted that she lives in Walkersville, has been active for many years as an Elections Supervisor, and has regularly attended town council meetings. Turnout for their elections averages 10%. Kate indicated that she would like to see the LWFVC Voters' Guide provide information on county municipal elections and have the league come up with ways to improve voter turnout in these elections.

**Publicity:** Lauri had nothing to report for the Publicity Committee.

**Ethics:** Norma Diaz was not present at the meeting, so no report was given for the Ethics Committee.

**LWVNCA:** Sue Krause reported that the LWVNCA met and voted to disband on June 30. The organization plans to distribute its final \$9,000 assets among

member leagues. Larger leagues (determined by the number of members) will get a bigger share of LWNCA money than smaller leagues.

**Website:** Kate stated that ChapterSpot is settling in and now has a new member survey form with detailed questions. The LWNCA also now has access to Slack for coordinating activities and events. And the league now has a new website through ChapterSpot, which Kate will dig into when she has a chance.

**Miscellaneous:** Kate recommended using the link in the agenda to review the LWNCA Federal Judiciary Study. She then asked whether anyone had further discussion on how to expand the league's education programs. George Carroll noted that, with Kate, he plans to present an educational program at Buckingham's Choice, reach out to the Frederick Rotary, and pursue leads in Southern Frederick County. Jill is developing a presentation on the history of the Supreme Court and George is interested in helping her. Peggy, Mary Lou, and Patti are working on a plain-English presentation on empowering voters. The presentation will cover such topics as Ranked-Choice Voting, voting mechanics, absentee ballots, and sources of candidate information like the Voters' Guide. George noted that he plans to make more presentations at libraries and senior centers and thinks any history of the LWNCA should include some history of suffrage in the U.S. Rosanne added that, if possible, she would like to do 2-3 tabling events, library talks, and articles in the county for such towns as Brunswick, Urbana, and Emmitsburg. Kate encouraged developing new programs, but said, with municipal elections imminent and mid-terms next year, they need to be given soon and should follow the LWNCA PPT template. Sue Kunkel asked that those developing new presentations also create handouts for tabling. Kate then noted that she and Jill would attend the Delaney and MD 8th District Jamie Raskin town hall meeting in Frederick on March 19.

**Adjourned:** 6:10pm Lauri made a motion to adjourn, Sue seconded, and Kate adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Secretary Rosanne Roe.

