

League of Women Voters of Frederick County
December 15, 2025 Board Meeting

Attended in Person: Kate Jones, Sue Kunkel, Jill Griffith, Lauri Gross, George Carroll, Tiffany.

Attended Virtually: Peggy Durbin, Barbara Schectman, Nannette Hobson, Rosanne Roe, Margaret Hindman, Karen Paris, Ellen West.

Call to Order: 5:01pm Kate Jones called the meeting to order.

Minutes: Lauri Gross made a motion to accept November 17, 2025, Minutes with two corrections, one removing her name from a comment and one removing George Carroll's name from a comment. The minutes as corrected passed with a voice vote.

Membership: Jill Griffith reported that, with 4 new members, the league now has 116 members, and 27 members are in the 60-day-before-expiration category. A membership meeting is scheduled for January 24 from 11am-1pm in the C. Burr Artz Library Community Room. Coffee, tea, and sandwiches will be served.

The meeting will begin with a few members sharing their experiences volunteering for the league. That will be followed by a review of the league's policies and information on the league's tabling events and activities, including community events, high school and senior centers outreach, computer resources and observer corps, voter education, Voters Guide/Vote 411/newsletter, publicity, forums, legislative breakfast and advocacy, and poll evaluation.

Events: Sue Kunkel noted that there are no events to discuss yet, but she will register for the Pride Festival in January. George plans to contact the Frederick County Board of Education regarding 2026 high school tabling.

Voter Services: Nannette Hobson had nothing to report. It was again mentioned that the league needs to find more forum volunteers. Lauri Gross noted that the LWVMD is going to conduct Vote411 training in January in Columbia, MD and she and Jill plan to attend. Sue Kunkel inquired whether she could attend the training virtually and Lauri thought that was not an option, but she would check. Lauri reminded the board that the 2026 Voters' Guide will be online for the primaries and printed by the *Frederick News Post (FNP)* for the general election. The *FNP* will have its own Voters' Guide for the primaries.

Publicity: Lauri issued a press release on the league's December 26 Legislative Breakfast. The *Brunswick News-Journal* ran it in their December 2025 issue, but the *FNP* did not put it in their calendar nor run a story about it. Lauri surmised that, with so many seasonal events, the

newspaper had only so much room in the calendar and for stories, so the league's legislative breakfast story got bumped.

Ethics: Mary Sue Krause did not attend the meeting, but there was nothing further to report for the Ethics Committee in December.

Nominating Committee: The committee will hold a meeting on December 16.

County Board of Elections (BOE): Director Barbara Wagner reported that the BOE shares best practices with other counties. She also reported on the number of active registered voters in the county and the number of voters registered in each party or unaffiliated. The board has tested and certified voting equipment. They have also tested poll books and scanners. They have submitted their 2026 polling place plan to the state for approval. The next BOE open house for prospective election judges is January 24. Public comments about balancing the party affiliation of election judges and ensuring the security of the voter rolls, paper ballots, and voting periods were made at the meeting.

Police Accountability Board (PAB): The PAB will hold its first Trial Board, which is its process for reviewing complaints of police misconduct. The Trial Board takes place in the Sheriff's Office at 8am on December 18. As required by law, the Trial Board is open to the public and Kate and Sue Kunkel plan to attend.

Kate will provide a link to a video of the incident at issue and a letter from the ACLU and NAACP about the incident. A sixteen-year-old boy had participated in a Boy Scout candlelight tribute and then stayed for an overnight Boy Scout camp out. Although he was wearing clothing with a Boy Scout logo, he was mistakenly stopped by police officers with drawn weapons during a vehicle pursuit, even after his identity was verified. As a consequence, the boy experienced serious trauma.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Kunkel stated that the Beginning Balance for the month was \$9,170 and the Ending Balance was \$9,000. The league made the final payment for ASL interpreting for the forums. While the league still must pay its \$3,000 Per Monthly Payment (PMP) and \$500 for its website hosting fee, it is in good shape financially for 2026 through the primaries. However, Sue did advise the board that the league should think about ways to do fund raising in 2026, including soliciting donations at the membership meeting.

Legislative Breakfast: The Maryland lobbyist union has asked the Maryland Ethics Commission to investigate whether LWVFC has committed an ethics violation in marketing and hosting its Legislative Breakfast without formally being registered as a lobbyist.

To be considered a lobbyist, the league needs to have office space where delegates can visit, have a paid staff person to do the lobbying, and spend \$500 or more on events. Although the league does not meet these requirements, an unfavorable ruling by the commission on this issue could involve a substantial fine.

Sue Kunkel noted that the issue might be resolved by the league's completing a form that states that it does invite state delegates to speak at community events outside the General Assembly sessions, but these events are nonpartisan. LWVMD is assisting LWVFC on this issue.

Girl Scout Badge: Karen Paris updated the board on the league's work with the local Girl Scouts on their Civics or Democracy Badges. She has created an outline of the program, which will tentatively be held in the C. Burr Artz Community Room from 1-4pm on March 22 or 28, and she would like Kate to review it. An estimated 50 girls will participate, along with volunteers.

Karen envisions a 20-minute presentation on the Electoral College, women's voting rights, and other topics. The girls will then rotate through 5 stations covering local and state governments and three branches of government. The stations will have activities and handouts. Each girl will have to complete a sheet indicating five things that she has learned as evidence of a completed badge. Because this event will require several volunteers, it was suggested that Hood College students might be able to help with the event.

Miscellaneous: Work on the Resident Noncitizen Voting Report requested by LWVMD is moving along. Walter Olson provided a lot of good information.

Kate mentioned that the league's Annual Meeting is in four months and work on documents for that meeting will begin shortly. As part of bylaw changes, the league needs a document retention policy. She also noted that the President's position will be vacant and the board needs to decide how that work will be handled. In the past, the league has had a President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President.

At the end of the meeting, Tiffany from Indivisible Frederick Forward spoke about ways in which her organization and the league can pair up on common projects. Kate noted that, while Indivisible may have more leeway to take political positions, the league is strictly nonpartisan. Besides registering voters, the league provides voter education and advocates on certain issues but does not support candidates or parties. Kate noted that the upcoming membership meeting on January 24 is open to the public and might be a good place to try to determine where LWVFC can team up with Indivisible Frederick Forward.

Adjourned: 6:13pm Kate adjourned the meeting. Submitted by Rosanne Roe, Secretary.