

Republican Federated Women of The Villages General Membership Meeting 03/2026



March 12, 2026 / 10:00 AM / Rohan Recreation Center, 850 Kristine Way, The Villages FL 32163

AGENDA:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by RFWTV President, Meg Beck
Prayer: Ann Bourke, Prayer Warrior Chair
Pledge: Pam Glynn, Armed Services Chair

REPORTS AND UPDATES:

Meg Beck confirmed with Eileen Gressock, Recording Secretary, that we had a quorum for the meeting.

Meg introduced Debbie Hagey, FFRW District 5 Representative, Recording Secretary of Southern Diamonds Republican Federated Women and Associate member of RFWTV. Debbie is the liaison for the FFRW and five local clubs in Lake, Sumter, Citrus, Levy and Alachua Counties. Debbie invited us to visit Southern Diamonds. Their meetings are in Olympia Recreation Center at 6:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month.

Local Officials

Meg recognized the following local officials in attendance: Nicholas Hemes, NSCUDD; Dianne Olsen, State Committee Woman; Deb Butterfield, District 1 Sumter County Commissioner; Andy Bilardello, District 2 Sumter County Commissioner; Mark Morgan, Republican Executive Committee (REC) Chair; and Sally Moss, School Board Representative.

Dianne Olsen introduced Mark Morgan, the new REC Chair, replacing Samantha Scott. Mark shared some of his experience in the Republican party from door knocking to organizing a ministry in the Sumter County Jail. He invited the members to reach out to him with any suggestions for the REC.

Andy Bilardello expressed the need for additional signatures on petition cards to get his name on the ballot for the upcoming election. Please take multiple cards with you to have friends and neighbors' sign. Andy needs to turn in all executed cards by May 11th. Meg reminded the members that the Club does not endorse any primary candidate running for office and signing petition cards does not indicate an endorsement.

Judy Holleran introduced Sally Moss, Sumter County School Board member. Sally previously started the school supply drive and today has a special ask for sanitary products for girls in the Sumter County schools. The funds for feminine hygiene products in middle and high school have run very low. Sally has started this initiative to assist the young girls in our schools.

Guest Speaker:

Carol Mangan introduced our guest speaker, Lt. Col. Frances Presley Rice, Retired. Col. Rice is an attorney who is authorized to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. She has achievements in the military field, corporate business arena, political activism and as an author and screenwriter. Col. Rice spoke about African American women trailblazers who helped to build our nation.

Col. Rice began speaking about gratitude. Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but it is the parent of all virtues. It brings about courage, resilience and leadership. If you have gratitude, you don't waste your life complaining, you get up, you show up and you do the work. As Republican women we support the framework declared by the Republican Study Committee: strengthen the family, improve the economy, make America energy independent, cut ways of spending. Keep showing up for the cause of good government because the only way we fail is if we quit. Col Rice spoke about African American women such as: Dr. Rebecca Crumpler, first American Doctor of Medicine in the U.S.; Sarah Boone, inventor of the ironing board; Madam C. J. Walker, entrepreneur, inventor and one of the first American millionaires; and Ida Gray, first African American dentist.

Business Reports

FFRW Conference will be on April 10-12th at the Hilton Tampa Airport West Shore. The early bird special is going on now which allows you to register for the Conference for \$225; after March 15th, the Conference price jumps up to \$265. If you are considering attending, please register ASAP. If you attend the Conference, gavel to gavel, and are a member of one Club Committee, you will be reimbursed for the \$225 conference fee, minus the on-line registration fee.

Recording Secretary. The minutes of the February membership meeting had been circulated with the meeting announcement through Constant Contact. Eileen Gressock called for a motion to approve the February General Membership meeting minutes.

Motion

Ann Bourke moved that the February 2026 General Membership meeting minutes be approved. The Motion was seconded and the Motion was adopted.

Financial Review Committee. Deb Butterfield, Chair of the Financial Review Committee, along with the other members of the Financial Review Committee, Elaine Johnson and Arleen Glowacki, reviewed the 2025 financial records on February 10, 2026, at the home of Lou Mower, Assistant Treasurer. The Committee reviewed all transactions over \$250, and a random selection of withdrawals and checks written under \$250 with a total of 23 transactions. They looked at six deposits under \$250. The Committee reconciled each examined transaction to the bank statement, deposit book and/or checkbook. The Committee's Report concluded that the financial records for RFWTV are properly maintained and management of Club records is strong.

Motion

Dianne Olsen moved that the Financial Review Committee Report prepared and presented by the Financial Review Committee be approved. The Motion was seconded and the Motion was adopted.

Treasurer's Report

Carol Mangan, Treasurer, presented the financial statements for January and February 2026 as follows:

January 1st account balance was \$17,606. Total revenues during the month of January were \$2,288.50 (all of which was dues coming in). For new members, Carol explained that Club dues of \$45 – we remit \$25 to the FFRW who only retains \$5 and then sends \$20 to the NFRW. Total expenses during January were \$2,857.44 which represents the dues passed on to FFRW and NFRW; Club laptop service of \$335; State of Florida Annual Report filing \$61.25; and some name tag payments. Balance on January 31st was \$17,037.24.

February 1st began with \$17,037.24. Total revenue for February was \$795 for additional dues. Expenses of \$2,235.60 which included renewal of storage facility contract for \$1,249.60, Legislative event in Tallahassee hotel expenses for our President and Legislative Chair. Balance as of March 1st was \$15,596.64.

Carol then presented the proposed 2026 Budget as follows: Income will include dues estimated at \$7,000 (150 members at \$45 each) plus associate members; donations of approximately \$2,250; annual fundraising \$14,000. Total income estimate is slightly over \$24,000. As a reminder, the Club mission is to get Republicans elected and to support women's development in leadership and in government and political education. Expenses are identified as follows: Each Committee Chair advocated for certain amounts. The smallest Committee budget is \$25 and the largest is \$6,000. Campaign Activism budget is \$4,040; predominantly used for the phone bank which is the premier phone bank in the country. The phone bank expenses include leasing space for operation and other miscellaneous expenses. Other Club expenses include website licensing; computer maintenance and contracts \$1200; \$6,000 conference reimbursement funding to encourage members to attend FFRW Conferences; and operational expenses like the storage unit, fundraiser event, etc.

We expect to have an income of \$24,750 and expenses of \$28,675. The Board recommends that the proposed 2026 Budget be approved even with the \$3,925 shortfall. The surplus in our bank account will cover the additional expenses.

Motion

Carol Mangan moved that the 2026 Republican Federated Women of The Villages Budget be approved as presented. Eileen Gressock seconded the Motion. The Motion was adopted.

Membership

Jane Falvo announced that a new member orientation will be held on March 25th at 1:30-3:30 pm at Trillium Rec Center. Committee Chairs will provide information on their Committee and answer any questions you may have. Membership will soon be publishing a "Membership Memo" to inform the members of what other members in the Club are doing.

Events and Hospitality

Kathy Slattery tries to do a fun activity each month. In January a group of members went to see “Melania” and dinner; this event was well received, and we will do it again. Kathy Nichols spoke about the Club’s travel to the Equestrian Center in Ocala; they saw the new event building and had lunch. Tuesday, March 17th is the date for the March Birthday luncheon at Evans Prairie.

Literacy and Education

Judy Holleran, Chair, stated that this Committee’s focus is on the US Constitution. The first year was an essay contest about the five guaranteed freedoms. The students had to pick one and explain why they chose it. The students’ top picks were religion and freedom. The students were also given the option of making a video instead of a written essay; the Debate Club jumped on it. The second year was focused on the separation of power between the executive, legislative and judicial branches. Year three focus was on the electoral college. Some Committee members also participated as judges in the Sumter Science Fair. Judy informed the membership that many times her committee members were educated by the students. Another project this Committee did was furnish books to the debate club for summer reading, books regarding current events and politics. If you have any books you would like to donate, please see Judy. Judy is looking for new Committee members with fresh ideas; please join the Literacy and Education Committee; they meet the second Friday of each month at the Pinellas Library from 10:00 – Noon.

Armed Services

Pam Glynn, Chair, read a newspaper article she received from her mother during her early college years. The article was written by Dennis Edward O’Brien, a Marine Corp. veteran.

It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press;
It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate;
It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.

We have an Armed Services Committee because they have given us everything we have in America. We don’t want them to feel forgotten, either our veterans or active duty. This Committee does several projects during the year to honor veterans. We have a handful of members but would like to have many more. One project for later this year will be to have a memorial display board at the November meeting. Anyone who is a veteran or has a family member who was a veteran, please bring in a photocopy of pictures; we will put all the photos on a board for everyone to see. Another project is the Christmas Stocking initiative. Last year we donated 171 filled stockings to the VA Health Care Center in Orlando. We have already started collecting stockings and items to fill stockings. Please look for additional stockings later this year as well as items that can be used to fill any stockings that are not yet filled. Please sign up on the clipboard if you are interested in joining us.

Americanism

Deb Butterfield introduced Marie O’Flaherty, a member of the Americanism Committee, to provide us with this month’s Americanism Moment. Marie reflected on President Trump’s second inaugural address when he said, “America does the impossible best.” Marie stated that that

statement is “Classic American Thinking”; and encouraged all of us to not forget it. Marie then shared a personal example of a young man who exemplified this American trait.

Campaign Activism

Dianne Olsen received a call from the Republican Party of Florida requesting help in making phone calls for special elections going on in Districts 14 and 87. She will be reaching out to all phone callers with details.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen M. Gressock, Recording Secretary