

Republican Federated Women of The Villages General Membership Meeting 05/2026



May 14, 2026 / 9:30 AM / Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 510 Colony Blvd., The Villages FL 32162

AGENDA:

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by RFWTV President, Meg Beck
Prayer and Pledge: Sumter County Sheriff Pat Breeden

REPORTS AND UPDATES:

Local Officials:

The following local officials were in attendance: Dianne Olsen, State Committee Woman; Deb Butterfield, District 1 Sumter County Commissioner; Sally Moss, School Board Representative; Bruno Falvo, WUDD; Terry Montgomery, NSCAD; Debbie Hagey, FFRW District 5 Representative and Recording Secretary for Southern Diamonds RFW and Associate Member of RFWTV; and Sumter County Sheriff Pat Breeden. Additionally, Morgan Housley, Assistant to Wilton Simpson, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, was in attendance.

The donation the Club made to the FFRW Conference silent auction table (Kate Spade bag, reversible pashmina scarf, necklace donated by Reggie Caporale, planner, pen and constitution) brought in \$375; ours was the highest grossing donation for the 14 entries that were on the table.

Guest Speaker:

Lisa introduced our guest speaker, Sheriff Pat Breeden. He had been a canine handler for six years. Dogs are a vital tool in law enforcement; each dog has a specific function: tracking, patrol, vaping dogs, gun sniffing dogs, etc. Full-service dogs are trained to bite, Sheriff Breeden asked we not make any sudden moves towards the dogs, try to pet them, etc.

The first officer to speak was Senior Master K9 Deputy Flynn. He was in the army as a Sargeant for five years; moved to Florida, joined the academy and was hired in Sumter County. He joined the SWAT team, Dive team and then the Canine unit. Has been a canine handler for four years. Full-service dogs can apprehend a subject if needed and are trained to bite. Single purpose dogs can track; locate a subject, i.e. a juvenile or elderly person with a mental illness; very often bloodhounds are single purpose tracking dogs. Since a full-service dog is trained to bite, they would not be used to track people. In schools we have bomb dogs. Gun dogs can detect guns, gun parts, ammunition as well as tracking. A handler attends about 480 hours of training, about three months, which is just basic training to pass state certification. After that they train at a minimum of five hours every week as a unit in addition to other training. The dog and handler become very attached, they are best friends. They bond because they know they have each other's back. People have about five million olfactory senses. Dogs have anywhere from 225 to 300 million olfactory senses.

Methamphetamine is the most common drug found in Sumter County. Last year the Sumter County Canine Unit placed fifth out of 30 dogs in a State competition.

The dogs purchased by Sumter County are bought from Police Service Dogs Incorporated in Oxford, Florida. They import their dogs from Germany or Poland because they have a purebred line that can be tracked. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement only allow use of certain breeds: German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois and Dutch Shepherds. The bloodhounds are usually locally sourced. The County has six full-service dogs which they alternate three a-day. Sumter County has implemented a patrol school to extend the time handlers have with their canine before they are sent out. Dogs usually retire around ten years old. They currently have three school dogs: German Shorthaired Pointer (a vape dog), Black Lab (bomb) and Belgian Mountain Wall (gun). They also have a jail dog for contraband (cell phones, etc.). The handlers carry Narcan to administer to the dogs if they are exposed to a large amount of fentanyl. Most dogs do not socialize and play together. When he takes his dog home at night the dog does not interact with his family or family pets. During training, some dogs are identified as not being suitable for needs in Sumter County and will be sent to other law enforcement agencies.

Deputy Corporal Radtke introduced his canine, Drago, 14 months old; they just completed school two weeks ago. Deputy Witman and his canine, Bailey, have been a team for about two years. Bailey was donated to the Unit from the Jimmy Rice Foundation, which has the mission of supplying every law enforcement agency in the country with a bloodhound.

Trump Event

Meg described the process; she received a phone call asking for names of 12 volunteers to work the day of the rally. Meg proceeded to call members until she received 12 members to say yes. She then submitted contact info for all volunteers which was subsequently sent to the White House. The following day she received a request for an additional 18 volunteers, same process. Workers needed to be able to work eight hours day of the event and attend a walk-through the day before. There was some communication issues with the White House phone calls and emails. Volunteers needed to be flexible as undefined tasks were randomly assigned. It was a great experience but if you get a phone call from me asking if you are interested in working, keep in mind that it may be long day and you may be asked to do a difficult task. Meg tries to include all members of the Club in these opportunities to participate. Byron Donalds, Ashley Moody, Scott Bessett, Dr. Oz and Dr. Phil among the officials in attendance and spoke to the crowd.

Debbie Hagey, FFRW District 5 Representative addressed the Club to announce that Southern Diamonds RFW and Lake RFW are putting together a Meet & Greet for GOP candidates -- Leesburg Community Center, June 10th, 6:00-8:00 pm. Presently 14 candidates have reserved their place, three are candidates for Governor. All are welcome, invite your friends and neighbors.

Meg introduced Arleen Glowacki, newly appointed Achievement Awards Chair. Please document your volunteer hours and send them to Arleen via text 773-320-0004 (cell) or arleenglowacki4@gmail.com. The volunteer hours are compiled and sent to the FFRW every six months. The volunteer hours are the basis for the awards the Club receives from the FFRW. In answer to a question, Meg stated that if you are an Associate Member of RFWTV, and a Primary member of another federated club, your hours follow your Primary Club membership. If you are

an Associate Member of RFWTV, and not a member of any other affiliated club, your volunteer hours can be counted for the Club. Question asked about attending the Trump event--hours count for attendance as well as travel to an event. If you did not get entry in to the event, you still get credit for the volunteer hours you spent getting there and waiting.

Sally Moss, Sumter County School Board Member, thanked the Club for our donations of feminine products. School supply donations this year, they will be asking for monetary donations in order that teachers will be able to purchase bulk supplies, tax free.

Business Reports:

Recording Secretary. The minutes of the April 9, 2026 membership meeting had been circulated with the meeting announcement through Constant Contact. Eileen Gressock called for a motion to approve the April 9, 2026 General Membership meeting minutes.

Motion: Ann Bourke moved that the April 9, 2026 General Membership minutes be approved; The Motion was seconded and the Motion was adopted.

Treasurer's Report. Lou Mower, Assistant Treasurer, presented the financial statement for March 2026 as follows:

April 1, 2026 account balance was \$15,691.20. Total revenues during the month of April were \$283.00. Total expenses during April were \$3,671.04, which predominantly represents reimbursement of \$225 each to 14 members who attended the FFRW Spring Conference. Balance as of May 1, 2026 was \$12,303.16.

Committee Highlights:

Americanism: Deb Butterfield, Chair. The Americanism Committee is planning to celebrate the 250th anniversary at our June meeting. Special activities are planned along with special refreshments and a giveaway. We will be celebrating our flag and enjoying being Americans together. Mark your calendars, bring a friend; great opportunity to recruit.

Armed Services: Pam Glynn, Chair. Memorial Day flag placement at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell is Sunday May 24th, you can still sign up. Two buses at the Home Depot in Wildwood off 466A; \$20 per person covers the cost of the bus (as well as a tip for the driver); no extra money needed. Please wear closed toe shoes (ants are prevalent), bring a 12" ruler to measure for flag placement; bring something like a screwdriver to make a hole for the flag. The flags will be provided to you when you get there, bundles of 25. Be at Home Depot at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 24th. T-shirts available, \$25, if interested.

Christmas Stockings, always be on the lookout for them. We currently have 102 but last year we filled 171; we would like to meet that amount and surpass it.

Please bring copies of pictures of family members who served in the military for the picture board the Committee is preparing for Veterans Day in November.

Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall is touring the Country. It will be at Waterfront Park in Claremont May 24th – May 26th. This is a 300 foot mini-exhibit honoring the sacrifices of the Vietnam War.

Campaign Activism: Dianne Olsen, Chair, spoke about the redistricting initiative in the State of Florida. Governor DeSantis signed the new maps on April 29th. Voter Rights groups filed lawsuits immediately; Supreme Court is behind these new maps. Here in District 11, the old map included all of Sumter County and parts of Lake, Polk and Orange Counties. So that makes us less GOP leaning, but we are still solidly red. We have 1.5 million more registered Republicans than Democrats. The problem we face is that our Republicans do not always go out to vote especially in primaries and special elections. All Republicans need to get out to vote, if you are going to be away during the primary, request your vote by mail. Dianne has sent letters to all members who signed up; she is having an informational event to show you the different ways you can volunteer. Dianne is grateful for all the hard work the women in this Club do and is proud to represent you from Sumter County.

Events: Kathy Slattery, Chair, unable to attend. In her absence, Stacey Castle circulated clipboards to sign up for the High Tea on the Barbara Lee ship – a day trip on a paddle boat; lunch provided. Birthday party luncheons are the Tuesday after the meeting.

Fundraising: Barbara Orvieto, Fundraising Chair, was unable to attend the meeting but asked Meg to circulate the volunteer sign-up sheets for the Fundraiser. Barbara will be setting up meetings soon.

Membership: Jane Falvo, Membership Chair, told the membership that the Club needs to work together as a team in the upcoming election. Jane challenged each member to bring a friend to next month's meeting. She was not at liberty to discuss the agenda for June but the Americanism Committee has a special meeting planned. The Membership Committee meets the third Wednesday of the month at Square One restaurant in Pinellas Plaza.

Prayer Warriors: Ann Bourke, Chair. May 7th was the National Day of Prayer; some Club members joined North Lake Presbyterian for their prayer service. On May 17th, Rededication 250, Leesburg City Hall 4:00-6:00 p.m. there will be a joint service with those in Washington D.C. praying for the country. Prayer Warriors will be passing out water bottles with the Club logo on it to those in attendance. Ann is asking for help to place the logos on the water bottles; meet at her home, Saturday, May 16th at 10:30 a.m. Reminder to pray for one minute at 9:00 p.m. every night; pray for President Trump, his Cabinet, his family, the military and the country.

Americanism Moment: Esthella Clema spoke as to what it means to her to be an American, someone who wasn't born here. It means Hope! She experienced political unrest and a series of adversities in the countries she was living in. She has achieved the American dream, personally and professionally. The coup against President Trump made her realize that there is no place else to go; this country is the last beacon of hope in the world. She mentioned her late husband's legacy of faith and optimism in the American Spirit which gives her hope. She quoted Melania Trump "Adversity will test you. Life will throw moments at you that feel unbearable. But in the most

daunting times, something incredible happens. Hope finds a way in. And step by step, we move forward again.”

Ladies, for our June meeting and special 250 celebration, please wear red/white/blue and a lot of bling!

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen M. Gressock, Recording Secretary