

Republican Federated Women of The Villages General Membership Meeting 09/2026



September 10, 2026 / 9:30 a.m. / 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: Ann Bourke, Corresponding Secretary and Prayer Warriors Committee Chair

Pledge: Pam Glynn, Armed Services Committee Chair

REPORTS AND UPDATES:

Local Officials:

In attendance were Barbara Price, Former FFRW President and NFRW Executive Committee Member at Large, Region 3 Director; Susan Murrell, Sumter FRW; and Cindy Brown, Assistant to Congressman Daniel Webster.

The following local officials were 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; Sally Moss, School Board Representative; Bruno Falvo, WUDD.

Meg started the meeting by recognizing the first anniversary of the assassination of Charlie Kirk on September 10, 2025 and the 25th anniversary of the Muslim terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. She noted that today 30% of Americans were not yet born on September 11, 2001 which is why we must continue to talk about it, teach it and never, ever forget it.

FFRW Fall Conference via Zoom

The FFRW Fall Conference will take place on September 26, 2026 via Zoom. All members can participate on their own via their personal computer at home. However, the Club has reserved a room at Rohan in order that all members that choose to may experience the Conference as a group. Attending the Conference is a great way to see the State organization in action. All FFRW Board members will be introduced and you will see what amazing women they are. All five constitutional candidates will be interviewed, so you will have the opportunity to hear their views—Byron Donalds for Governor; Ashley Moody, Senator; Blaise Ingoglia, Chief Financial Officer; James Uthmeier Attorney General and Wilton Simpson, Commissioner of Agricultural. If you are interested in a future leadership position in the Club, you are encouraged to participate in this Zoom conference. There is no cost to members for registration; the Club will provide a continental breakfast and box lunch.

Business Reports:

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

Motion: Dianne Olsen moved that the July 9, 2026 General Membership meeting minutes be approved; The Motion was seconded and the Motion was adopted without objection.

Treasurer's Report.

Carol Mangan, Treasurer, presented the financial statement for July and August 2026 as follows:

July 1st account balance was \$10,737.97. Total revenues during the month of July were \$174.00 (membership dues/tags). Total expenses during July were \$820.96 which represent name tags, business cards and committee expenses. Balance as of July 31st was \$10,091.01.

August 1st account balance was \$10,091.01. Total revenues during the month of August were \$300 (Fundraiser sponsorship). Total expenses during August were \$539.16 which represent dues passed on to FFRW and NFRW; palm cards, name tags, postage stamps and phone bank. Balance as of August 31, 2026 was \$9,851.85.

Carol reminded everyone that we started the year on January 1st with \$17,606.18. We spent about \$7,800 year-to-date. The major expenses are in line with our mission as an organization—conference reimbursements and attendance at Legislative Day; phone bank expenses; storage unit; and contracts for technology and communications. The conferences, our communication through Constant Contact and our phone bank are central mission critical objectives that we have which constituted \$5,800 of what we spent. Most of our money is going exactly to what it should be going to. Carol assured the membership that we are consistent with our spending pattern: we start the year at our highest cash peak because of all the membership money coming in, and we then spend it on conferences and our political activities in election years.

Next Carol discussed the Club's mid-year financial review. Under President Meg, we instituted a new procedure whereby each Committee Chair is responsible for tracking their performance to their own Committee budget, which was approved by the membership in March. At the end of July, all Chairs have reported and are tracking their expenses; spending is under budget to-date. Committee Chairs are doing excellent oversight and considering we are one of the largest clubs in the State of Florida, the membership should be proud of the financial controls and oversight taking place.

Third item Carol discussed was the October Club fundraiser. The Club will not accept credit cards as a form of payment at the Fundraiser. Please note, only cash or check may be used.

Last point relates to the FFRW Zoom Fall Conference. Carol and Mary Lazich are passing around clip boards to sign up to attend. Carol will do a mass registration for any members still not registered.

If you sign up, please attend as the Club will be ordering food to accommodate the number of expected members.

Committee Highlights:

Membership:

Jane Falvo, Chair of the Membership Committee, explained the Palm Cards that were given to each member when they signed in at the meeting. The cards describe who we are as a Club and what we do. Jane challenges each member to give an inquiring friend the card as you discuss the Club and invite them to attend a meeting. Jane then distributed beads to Club members in recognition of their bringing new women to experience Club meetings and in some instances, become members of the Club. As Jane announced the members eligible for beads, Barbara Price presented the beads to: Carla Rousseau, Emine Masters, Grace Smith, Donna O'Neil, Donna Como, Sue Peters, and Linda Vercillo. Jane also received a bead for bringing in two new members. Meg acknowledged the importance of current Club members because we have the institutional knowledge, but we need to share it going forward with new members.

Literacy & Education

Judy Holleran, Chair, was in attendance but needed to leave early. Carolyn Bayne, Committee member, explained the Constitution Essay Contest the Club has been running in Sumter County Schools for the past few years. Kindergarten through Seniors in High School participate by submitting essays; the Debate Team submits videos and this year we are also offering an art contest. The students choose which First Amendment freedom is most important to them and submit an essay describing why. The Committee is asking Club members to volunteer to assist in judging the contest.

Legislative Affairs:

Mary Lazich, Chair, announced that on November 19th they will be having a tour of the Villages Charter School; December 17th will be a tour of the County Service Center; January 21st, Villages Government; February 18th is designated as a State date. The November tour is limited to 20 people; starting about 9:30 a.m.; if you are interested, email Mary at MLazich@ameritech.com.

Events:

Lynn Ingenito circulated flyers announcing the Chicken and Biscuits show at the Sig Pro Studios and dinner at the VKI Japanese Restaurant on Wednesday, September 23rd at 4:15 p.m. If you are not interested in the play, you can still join the group for dinner. Lynn raffled off a free ticket for the play.

Armed Services:

Pam Glynn, Chair, reminded the members that she needed pictures of your veterans. Armed Services is putting display boards together with the pictures of veterans from our families for our November meeting. The Committee is also writing thank you cards to veterans; expanding this year by asking the students at Wildwood Intermediate School to participate in the letter writing. Pam is also coordinating with the Commissioner at the Sumter County Service Center on Powell Road to distribute these cards to the many veterans that come into the Center. Please bring in your Christmas stockings as soon as possible; preferably before the October meeting.

Fundraising:

The Club Fundraiser is October 14th at Rohan Rec Center; doors open at 4:40 p.m. We have sold over 200 tickets; very limited number of tickets remaining. Barbara requested all members to sign up to help; she will be holding a meeting at the end of September. Donations for the baskets are needed; drop off locations are listed on the flyer.

Americanism:

In remembrance of 9-11, Deb Butterfield, Chair of Americanism Committee, spoke of how we each remember exactly where we were on that day and how we heard the news. Our Club member, Marie O'Flaherty, shared her experience of that day at Union Station. Marie was unable to be at the meeting but please read her remembrance on the Club website. Another member, Marilyn Licul shared that her husband was a New York City bus driver that day. A few days after the event, the Chairman of the Green Bus Lines Triborough Coach addressed the employees and read the following letter:

“An anonymous person sent a letter over the internet which sets the tone of the moment as well as anyone and better than most. In part it states, well, You hit the World Trade Center, but you missed America. You hit the Pentagon, but you missed America. You used helpless American bodies to take out other American bodies, but like a poor marksman, you still missed America. You guys seem to be incapable of understanding that we don't live in America. America lives in us. American spirit is what it's called. And killing a few thousand of us or a few million of us won't change it. Most of the time, it's a pretty happy go lucky kind of spirit until we're crossed in a cowardly manner. Then it becomes an entirely different kind of spirit. Wait until you see what we do with that spirit this time. Sleep tight if you can, we're coming. I think New York saw that spirit in you on that dreadful day, signed by Jerry Cooper. We will never forget.”

Guest Speaker:

Emine Masters introduced our guest speaker, Randolph Russell. Mr. Russell is the author of “American History in No Time”, a quick and easy read for the basics. Mr. Russell is an accomplished musician who has performed in many European countries and throughout the U.S. In business, he held several financial management positions with companies in Florida and Georgia. He holds degrees from the University of Miami and the University of Florida.

Mr. Russell shared his view on the past few years. “President Trump's second inauguration ended our long national nightmare that began with the stolen 2020 election, followed by the tyranny of an illegitimate auto pen president and the rest of the Democrat mafia who were hell bent on destroying this country they hate so much. The Biden years will be remembered as one of the darkest periods in American history. But sometimes you must pass through darkness to see the light. None of us realized how corrupt our government had gotten but now it has been exposed and President Trump is fearlessly leading us out of the mess. He reminds us never to forget to acknowledge the hand of divine providence. Charlie Kirk's assassination is evidence of the internal war raging in our country. The goal for us now is to cement our 2024 victories by turning out in huge numbers in the mid-terms, not just to win, but also to send a message that the MAGA movement is stronger than ever. He begs us not to become complacent. We could still lose the country. We retire from our

occupations but should never retire from the struggle to preserve our liberty and that of future generations.”

Studies found that only 12% of high school seniors were proficient in American history. A survey reflected that less than 1% of adults could name the five freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment. Mr. Russell believes there is a general body of information all Americans should know and never forget. It should be taught and rehearsed at home and in schools so that every citizen knows at least the fundamentals. Communism is getting a foothold in this country, especially among young people as a result of the leftist indoctrination they are receiving in our schools. History can and should inform our decisions when we head to the polls. Having an understanding of the past makes us better citizens and voters. Mr. Russell’s book is a concise overview, a quick and easy way to learn the basics every citizen should know. It fills the void for young and old alike. American History in No Time can be read in just a few hours. That's all it takes. to know the key events, people, places, and principles from before Columbus to the founding of the United States and all the way up to the present.

Mr. Randolph closed with a musical tribute by playing Taps/America the Beautiful on his Saxophone.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen M. Gressock, Recording Secretary