

# **Minutes of the Women Who Lead Members Meeting February 12, 2026**

A meeting was held at Thirsty's – The Venue on February 12, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.

President Nancy Jeter called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. welcoming 69 members and 6 guests.

Becky Wachs made a motion to approve the January minutes. Darla Froelich seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Financials – Erin Giebler announced nametags for new members will be done next month before the Power of the Purse. Members need to make sure they get signed up to receive one and the first one is free.

Erin Giebler reviewed the Women Who Lead's 2026 balanced budget. The budget must be in place and voted and approved by members. Cindy Elliot make a motion to approve the budget. Angie Zimmerman seconded and the motion passed.

## **Announcements-**

- Nancy Jeter announced WWL did 76 projects last year and over 30,000 people were served.
- Nancy thanked members for bringing the stuffed animals to support Ana's Gift and to stay for the group photo afterwards.
- Nancy announced the Schmidt Foundation is matching funds up to \$50,000 for the new Sunrise Park. There is a link on the website to donate to this project. Members are encouraged to give what you can.
- Nancy recognized and thanked the Holiday Christmas Party Team of Marie Froelich, Michelle Fairbank, Becky Zimmerman, Lakyn Zimmerman, Brenda Kitchen, and Andrea Carmichael.
- Nancy announced that there will be a new member On-Boarding Session on April 30, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. Location TBD.
- This month's project spotlight was on the 3-D Committee also known as the Dynamic Donation Dames. Jessica Johnson gave an overview of what this committee does 365 days a year. The group of 9 ladies pick up food donated from Dillon's Grocery Store on Vine Street. It is then delivered to various schools, food pantries, Options, Oxford Houses, First Call for Help, Epworth Towers, etc. and provided to those in need.
- Deb Hoffman won the Thirsty's Gift Card Drawing.

## Old Business-

- **Committee Reports**

- Women Who Feed – Mary Ann reported the Senior Dinner Social at the Bob and Pat Schmidt Community Center in February was a huge success and a record 60 seniors stayed to eat. They also provided meals to first responders, nurses, and families signed up to receive Meals on Wheels. Macey Pfeifer announced First Call for Help is looking for permanent drivers for Meals on Wheels. A stipend will be paid. They still have 2 open spots for the WWL week.
- Elder Care - Jan Klaus presented information on the committee's latest project called "Coffee and Conversations". Flyers and a ticket for a free coffee and cookie were made and will be given to residents beforehand. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, members aka "Coffee Chicks" will spend time at Brookdale Assisted Living Center engaging with the residents and their families through conversation and even some dancing. Member Deb Klaus will provide some background piano music as well. Coffee, cookies, and a valentine favor will be given to the residents. Initial funds for the first event were approved and the remaining funds were approved through their budget request to take this project to other assisted living centers and the senior center. Dates for the other events have not been set.
- Camber Kids – Jana Fross reported they will be doing a Valentine's Delivery to the Camber Kids on Friday. The project is called "Chip, Chip, Hooray, It's Valentine's Day!".
- Scholarships – Cristina Janney reminded everyone that WWL is accepting applications for eight \$1,000 scholarships that will be given out to women who reside in Ellis County and plan to enroll as a full-time student at a university or trade school in Ellis County. The application is online at [www.womenwholead.org](http://www.womenwholead.org). All schools in Ellis County have been contacted and students are encouraged to apply.
- Sponsorship Committee – there was nothing new to report. This is ongoing.

- **Power of the Purse 2026** – Joslyn Brungardt reminded everyone of the upcoming 2026 Power of the Purse Fundraiser Event and the style show that will take place this year. To get started on donations for the event, 25 membership purses are needed for the raffle. Joslyn passed around a signup sheet for the purses and asked members to only sign up one time. Becky Wachs will collect the donated raffle purses. All silent auction purses will be coming from businesses that sponsor WWL. Also, we are looking for members to sign up to donate a bottle of wine for the wine pull or a gift card that will be attached to the bottle of wine. A signup sheet was passed around for these two items as well. Gift cards should be to either WWL or a business that supports WWL. Information will be provided to those who sign up. Tickets will go on sale February 25, 2026. You will have the option to buy a single ticket or a table. Tickets will be available online or you can pay by check. The price for a table is \$600. Nancy Jeter announced that Brent at Thirsty's has graciously donated \$3,000 for WWL to purchase a Louis Vuitton purse for a raffle. He will advertise

it on the back of his menu of specials for the month of March and April up until the drawing at the POP. The menu will have a QR code on the back side for customers to buy raffle tickets.

- Sunrise Park Update – Erin Giebler will put the proposed playground pieces on the website. Nancy Jeter reviewed the 4 phases of the Sunrise Park Revitalization Project in detail. Phase 1 including the park sign, 9 hole disc course, baseball field improvements and the basketball courts is paid for and almost complete with the basketball courts being done today. M&D is doing all of the dirt work for \$0 dollars. Phase 2 is the new playground equipment and we want to complete this phase ASAP. The equipment will be in individual pieces so if something breaks it can easily be replaced. Phase 3 is the finishing touches of baseball field improvements, table tops for games, an agility work out piece, playhouse and in ground trampoline. Phase 4 will be for security purposes, lighting and cameras.

#### New Business

- Project Requests
  - Committee Budget Requests – Erin Giebler reviewed the Committee Budget Requests for 2026 that were submitted by each committee. Erin commented that this was attached to the newsletter for all members to review. Deb Klaus made a motion to approve the budget requests submitted by each committee for 2026 and Becky Wachs seconded the motion. Motion passed.
  - Ana’s Gift – Lori Hertel wanted to thank everyone that brought new stuffed animals this evening for the Ana’s Gift project that was started in honor of her daughter that passed away at age 17. New stuffed animals can be dropped off anytime at Eagle Radio, Golden Plains Credit Union, First Kansas Bank or the Jeter Law Firm. Over 1,000 or more stuffed animals have been given away to children that have been traumatized in some way. Scarlett Deutscher made a motion to give a \$500 monetary donation to Ana’s Gift for more stuffed animals. Katie Dorzweiler seconded the motion and it was passed.
  - The Blue Light Lady – Nancy Jeter presented the project request from the Society of Friends at Historic Fort Hays asking for WWL to donate \$500 - \$1,000 to move the sculpture of Elizabeth Polly by Pete Felton, to Historic Fort Hays where history can be shared with the public, both local and visiting. Signage alongside her will provide much the same message and donors will be recognized. Cristina Janney made a motion that we approve this request for \$1,000 to move the Elizabeth Polly statue by Pete Felton to Historic Fort Hays. Joleen Fisher seconded the motion and it was passed.

- Joslyn Brungardt thanked everyone that signed up for a purse, bottle of wine and or a gift card. Angie Zimmerman and her team will be wrapping the wine bottles and directions will follow for those that signed up.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at Thirsty's – The Venue at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jan Klaus, Secretary