

Minutes of the Women Who Lead Members Meeting March 12, 2026

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

President Nancy Jeter called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. welcoming 70 members and 4 guests.

Pam Joy made a motion to approve the February minutes. Deb Klaus seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Announcements-

- Nancy Jeter presented a pink WWL Hydro-flask to Connie Smith for recruiting 4 new members and pink pilsners to Sandee Werth and Darlene LaBute for recruiting 2 new members.
- Nancy Jeter thanked members for bringing purses, wine and gift cards for Power of the Purse!!!
- Nancy Jeter announced the Louis Vuitton purse raffle is in full swing – Get your tickets today!!! So far 150 tickets have been sold. The purse was donated by Brent at Thirsty's. The winner will be drawn at the Power of the Purse and posted on the WWL website. You do not need to be present to win.
- Nancy Jeter reminded members 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 they can. Nancy also mentioned an upcoming project with Thirsty's called "Give Back Tuesday". This event is scheduled for April 28, 2026. Thirsty's will run it like a regular business day and will donate 50% of their sales back to WWL for Sunrise Park. Raffle tickets will also be sold for a drawing of 4-5 prizes to be given away around 8:30 p.m. that evening. Members are asked to have a table in the waiting area to promote WWL and help sell tickets the day of the event. Further information will be sent out at a later date after the Power of the Purse.
- Marsha Pfeifer won the Thirsty's Gift Card Drawing.

Old Business-

- **Committee Reports**
 - Veterans Committee – Michele Springer, retired military and co-chair, presented information on a recent meeting that was held with several committee members. Pastor Ben from St. Michael's Episcopal Church is interested in helping with the project as he works with homeless veterans in the community. They discussed the possibility of having a safe haven for veterans over the 4th of July. There will be another meeting on

- April 20, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. at Thirsty's and they welcome any member that would be interested in serving on this committee. You can contact Michele for more information.
- Mental Health Committee – Michele Fairbanks, chair of this committee, announced they had a meeting yesterday. They have been to three locations so far with their “Conversations and Connections” event. It has been slow going but they are hoping word will get out and more residents will participate. Plans are being made for the “Out of the Darkness Walk” and she and Angie Zimmerman are on that committee. They will be asking for support from WWL. Details will follow at a later date. The soothing boxes will be delivered again and they are working on giving them a new name. Ruth Ruder added the HHS Mental Health Day for sophomores and seniors is March 30, 2026.
 - Supporting Our Students SOS Committee – Jan Klaus, committee member, announced the “Pouring into Students” coffee pop-up events were held on Monday, March 9 at Hays Middle School and O’Loughlin Elementary School. The events went very well and requests from teachers have already been submitted following these two events.
 - Sponsorship Committee – Joslyn Brungardt stated the drive is going on right now and sponsors are excited about the new Sunrise Park.
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- **Power of the Purse 2026 Update** – Joslyn Brungardt thanked members for bringing the wine, raffle purses, and gift cards to the meeting. We still need 12 more raffle purses. Angie Zimmerman will do a count of the wine bottles we have received and let members know. Our goal was 104. As of today, there are 7 tickets left for Power of the Purse. Gift cards are still needed and members will need to purchase these preferably from one of our sponsors or a WWL gift card. No coupons please. All donated purses need to have the retail price tag, receipt and name of the person donating the purse. We cannot accept purses without a tag. Becky Wachs will be collecting the raffle purses. The Style Show will be phenomenal! Everyone attending POP will be assigned a number and you will only need to write your number on things that you purchase. This will make it easier for everyone. Joslyn said we are “pumped for the park” and at some point in the evening, there will be a “Raise Your Hand” bidding for a specified piece of equipment for the park. There was a question asked as to what will happen to the old equipment at Sunrise Park and the answer is it will be destroyed as it is out of date and unsafe.
 - **Sunrise Park Update** – Nancy Jeter announced we are confident Phase 2 will be completed in the near future.
 - **Scholarships** – Cristina Janney reminded everyone that the deadline for the WWL scholarships is March 31st. WWL will be giving out eight \$1,000 scholarships 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. All schools in Ellis County have been contacted and students are encouraged to apply. Ruth Ruder stated only 16 applicants have applied thus far.
 - Nancy Jeter read a thank you note received for our donation to move the “Blue Light Lady” to her new home at Historic Fort Hays. The moving date is April 8th and a dedication

reception is planned for September 26th. Nancy also read a thank you note received from Lori Hertel for the stuffed animals. They have all been disbursed to hospitals and children's organizations to help children deal with trauma and distress.

New Business-

- Tiger Closet Review – Lisa Karlin gave a presentation on the progress of the FHSU Tiger's Closet. The clothing closet is for all currently enrolled students. For the 2025-26 Academic Year to Date, 299 students have visited the closet, 459 items have been distributed and there were 37 more student visitors compared to last year at this time. With the \$2,000 donation from WWL, 27 items were purchased. They still have \$700 left from our donation and once the semester is over, they will look for more items to purchase. They are always taking donations of clothing. You can bring them to Lisa or the Center for Student Success.
- Project Requests
 - University Outreach – Craft Night with Delta Zeta & WWL – Korinna Parker reviewed the project request for a \$500 donation from WWL for a Craft Night with DZ and WWL. The committee is coordinating this for April 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Delta Zeta house. They estimate 20-25 DZ members and 15 WWL Members. This program is intended to build relationships among WWL members and DZ Members which align with the mission of the University Outreach Committee. Korinna also mentioned the “Big Men on Campus” event will be held on March 24. Cristina Janney made a motion to approve the \$500 project request for the Craft Night with Delta Zeta and WWL. Lori Hertel seconded the motion and it was passed.
 - Pedal Patrol Sponsorship – Ruth Ruder presented the project request from the Arc of the Central Plains/ACCESS/CVB and HPD/CVB for financial support for the upcoming Pedal Patrol. Last year WWL provided snacks and Frisbees. The event will be held on September 19th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Money for the event will go to bike helmets and publicity as well as to help support a bounce house and raffle prizes. Beth Fisher made a motion to donate \$500 from WWL to provide financial support to the Pedal Patrol event. Becky Wachs seconded the motion and it was passed.
 - Reality U Sponsorship – Ruth Ruder presented the project request from The United Way of Ellis County for sponsorship funding of the three 2026 Reality U events, which will take place during the spring and fall semesters at Hays Middle School, Hays High School and TMP High School. These events will also include students from Victoria and Ellis. Sponsors of the 2026 Reality U events will be recognized at all three school events. If members are interested in volunteering to help with the event, they can go directly to the United Way website to sign up. The event this spring is scheduled for April 16th. Joslyn Brungardt made a motion to provide a \$500 sponsorship from WWL for the three 2026 Reality U events. Joleen Fisher seconded the motion and it was passed.
 - Chamber Golf Tournament – Ruth Ruder presented the project request from The Chamber in Hays, Kansas for sponsorship of their upcoming Chamber Golf Tournament. This is the largest fundraiser for the Chamber and money will be used to

- help fund our advocacy efforts on the local, state and national level as well as support the businesses in our community. Becky Wachs made a motion to provide \$500 to the 2026 Chamber Golf Tournament for the hole sponsors. Macey Pfeifer seconded the motion and it was passed.
- Splash Pad – Darla Froelich and Tiffany Hammerschmidt presented the project request from the City of Victoria Endowment Fund. They are seeking funding to support the construction of a splash pad next to the Public Park and swimming pool. This will provide a safe, accessible, low maintenance water play for kids of all ages. The impact on the community will be substantial. Victoria currently has limited recreational options for young children, and the city pool, built decades ago, is less appealing to many families. The Splash Pad will fill the gap by offering a safe, age-appropriate play space that encourages families to spend more time together outdoors. Total cost for the project is \$178,291.72. The City of Victoria will cover costs that are not raised and grants have been requested. Pauline Edmonds made a motion to provide a \$5,000 donation from WWL to help support the construction of a splash pad next to the public park and swimming pool in the City of Victoria. Cristina Janney seconded the motion and it was passed.

Nancy Jeter announced the deadline to donate stuffed animals to Ana's Gift is tomorrow. Stuffed animals can be dropped off at Eagle Communications, First Kansas Bank, Jeter Law Firm or bring to a meeting and give to Lori Hertel.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Scarlett Deutscher and seconded by Beth Fisher. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

There will not be an April membership meeting due to the Power of the Purse event. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2026 at Thirsty's – The Venue at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jan Klaus, Secretary