

Minutes of the Women Who Lead Members Meeting May 7, 2026

A meeting was held at Thirsty's – The Venue on May 7, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.

President Nancy Jeter called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. welcoming 53 members and 8 guests.

Mary Karst made a motion to approve the March minutes. There was not a meeting held in April. Joleen Fisher seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Announcements-

- Nancy announced the 31 Days of Cash tickets will be ready at the June Meeting. Renee Moritz is taking this on again. 500 tickets will be sold at \$25.00 each and the \$8,000 raised will all go to the WWL scholarships that will be given out in the spring of 2027 to eight women who reside in Ellis County and plan to enroll as a full-time student at a university or trade school in Ellis County.
- Mary Ann Shorman announced First Call for Help is seeking our assistance again and passed around a sign-up sheet for members to assist with Meals on Wheels the third week in May.
- Crystal Wells won the Thirsty's Gift Card Drawing.

Old Business-

- **Committee Reports**
 - Committee Chair – there was nothing new to report
 - Elder Care – Jan Klaus reported the committee has been busy with many activities. On April 24th several members served refreshments and desserts at the Via Christi Prom; On April 23rd members assembled bags for the NWKAAA Senior Information Day at Big Creek Crossing which were given out on May 6th. The bags contained a jigsaw puzzle donated by Joslyn Brungardt, Define Design and Remodel, a bottle of water from Werth Wealth Management, chap stick from Miner Dentistry, coupons from McDonalds and Wendy's and a few treats. A donation of bird seed was given to Via Christi for their bird feeders and the raised garden beds are currently being tilled and prepared for planting.
 - Veterans Committee - Michele Springer, reported the committee met on April 20th. There was a representative from the American Legion and the Disabled American Veteran Organization along with several other members of WWL. Pastor Ben from St. Michael's Episcopal Church presented a proposal for a Quiet Night for Veterans. More information on this under the Project Requests

- **Power of the Purse Appreciation** – Nancy Jeter thanked everyone for their hard work in making the Power of Purse 2026 a HUGE success. 2026 Power of the Purse raised over \$50,000! A special thank you to Erin Giebler and her helpers, Delberta Stortz and Hali Bielser for spending the entire evening selling tickets. Nancy recognized Joslyn Brungardt and her wonderful team at Define, Design and Remodel for their time and talent in putting it all together from beginning to end. Comments from the event can be sent to contact@womenwholead.org.
- **Scholarship Committee** – Cristina Janney announced the 2026 WWL Scholarship Winners as follows: Kinzie Sunley, Ellis High School, plans to attend FHSU and study Elementary Education; Alyssa Church, TMP, plans to attend FHSU and study Elementary Education; Aubrey Gil, returning FHSU student studying marketing; Erin Ruder, HHS, plans to attend FHSU to study pre-med; Reghan Byer, TMP, plans to attend FHSU to study nursing; Gracie Ball, Ellis High School, plans to attend FHSU Tech to study nursing; Norah Bradstreet, returning FHSU student studying sociology and criminal justice; Maycie Holdeman, returning FHSU student studying communication sciences and disorders, was a HHS grad. Six of the 8 winners attended our meeting and were recognized and given a WWL pink cup. Cristina announced that she will be stepping down as chair of the committee and Renee Moritz will be taking the position. She thanked everyone for their support. Members interested in serving on this committee should contact Renee Moritz.
- **Anti-Bullying Project** - Nancy Jeter spoke of the Anti-Bullying project that was held at HHS on April 27th. Mason Ruder was the guest speaker and his speech was very moving. Erin Ruder, student at HHS and WWL scholarship winner, started a Mental Health Initiative group at HHS three years ago and the Initiative has been growing.
- **Thirsty's Give Back Tuesday** – Nancy Jeter reported the event was a huge success and WWL received a total of \$14,382 from the food and raffle ticket sales. She thanked owner, Brent Schulte and his wonderful staff and everyone that dined out and bought tickets for the raffle. Thank you also to the WWL members that helped during the day. Several members that dined out commented that the staff did a great job of promoting the raffle tickets. Nancy asked for input to work on an honorary membership and creed for younger girls, i.e. our daughters and granddaughters, our future WWL leaders. Members agreed this would be a great idea.
- **Sunrise Park Update** – Nancy Jeter announced WWL did meet the matching funds challenge from the Schmidt Foundation for Sunrise Park. There will be a presentation on May 14th to the City Commission regarding the park and WWL will be show cased for and all that we have done. The Phase 2 playground equipment was ordered and we are hopeful it will be installed this summer.

New Business-

- **Onboarding Sessions** – Nancy Jeter reported the board has made the decision to put the new member packet online with all the information that would be presented during an

Onboarding Session. Once we have 15-20 new members and there is a need for an in person onboarding session, a date and time it will be announced.

- Project Requests

- First Call for Help Bloom Bags – Nancy Jeter reviewed the project request for funds to purchase Bloom Bags for the older girls to give out at the Backpack for Kids event. The bags would include 2 tampons, 3 pads, 1 hair brush, 1 WWL hand sanitizer and 1 zippered pouch to hold it all. The board approved \$300 for the supplies and gave them 200 hand sanitizers that were on hand.
- Science Festival – Ruth Ruder reviewed the request from RAISE Kansas and STEM Harvest on behalf of the Kansas Science Festival, KSF. \$500 was requested from WWL to help bring the second annual KSF to life in Hays, Kansas. The board approved \$498 for this event and it was held on May 3, 2026.
- Thank You HaysMed Day –Darla Froelich reviewed the request from Hays Medical Center to purchase cookies for hospital staff and help staff the booth during the meal shifts on May 14th. The total request was for \$350 and it was approved by the board. Darla passed around a sign up sheet to put labels on the cookies on May 13th from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. and to work the shifts on May 14th.
- Quiet Night for Veterans – Michelle Springer, Veteran’s Committee co-chair reviewed the request that was presented for a quiet night for veterans on July 4, 2026. The committee is asking for a monetary donation of \$400 that will be used to give veterans an opportunity to visit with other veterans and interact with games and such all while celebrating the 4th in a manner that is tolerable. Veterans will be transported back and forth by bus on that day to Episcopal Church. More information will be presented at the July WWL meeting but they may be asking for members to bring card games, corn hole, ladder golf, etc. for loan on that day. After some discussion Michelle Fairbanks made a motion to provide funds to this project in the amount of \$600. Cindy Elliott seconded and the motion passed.
- High Plains Mental Health Crisis Intervention Center – Ruth Ruder reviewed the project request from the High Plains Mental Health Center Endowment asking for a monetary donation for the forthcoming Crisis Intervention Center. A donation of \$500 or more will be recognized with a brick in the mobile donor appreciation wall that travels to different events throughout Northwest Kansas. Renee Moritz made a motion to donate \$2500 to High Plains Mental Health Crisis Intervention Center for this purpose. Cristina Janney seconded the motion and it was passed.
- Jana’s Campaign & Options (Sexual Assault Awareness Month) – Ruth Ruder reviewed the project request for a monetary donation to Jana’s Campaign and Options for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Ruth suggested \$1500 to each. Rita Carswell made a motion to donate \$1500 each to both Jana’s Campaign and Options. Darla

Froelich seconded the motion and it was passed. Guest Dawn Gabel announced that Options would also be doing a special mailing.

Mary Karst asked if there was an update on the project that was approved for the Bison on the Loose. It was reported that it is still in the planning stages.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mary Ann Shorman and seconded by Erin Giebler. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at Thirsty's – The Venue at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jan Klaus, Secretary