

League of Women Voters of St. Croix Valley

Minutes of Board Meeting, April 18, 2023

Board Members Present: Carolyn Saunders, Kate Manecke, Pam Girtz, Edna Early, Barb Katt, Rita Kearns, Irene Bugge

Committee Chairs Present: Patty Van Nevel, Rita Kearns, Vicki Harmon, Kris Surbaugh

Absent: Beth Wood, Marla Olson, Nanette Del Monaco

Welcome/Call to Order

Chair Carolyn Saunders welcomed participants and called the meeting to order over zoom at 5:35 pm.

Approval of Agenda

Irene Bugge made a motion to approve the agenda. Rita Kearns seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Rita Kearns made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2023 Board Meeting. Edna Early seconded. Motion carried. Rita Kearns made a motion to approve the March 1, 2023 Addendum to the February 21, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes. Pam Girtz seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Kate Manecke

The Treasurer submitted a Profit and Loss report for January 1, 2022 – March 2023. Total revenue was \$12,614.26. Total expenditure was \$9,616.02. Net operating revenue is \$2,998.24. Irene Bugge made a motion to approve the budget. Barb Katt seconded. Motion carried.

Membership Update: 69 members

Welcome Cheryl Redman

6546 Austin Lake Rd., Webster, WI 54893

608-228-3739

Membership Renewals Report – Kate (Deadline to receive 12/31/23)

The Treasurer reported that more than 40 members had paid their dues for the new year.

Annual Meeting

- Sunday, May 7, 2:00pm at Amery Community Center
- Contact with Amery Community Center – Edna Early, Vicki Harmon, Kris Surbaugh and Carolyn Saunders will deliver payment (\$100.00 rental fee and \$250.00 refundable deposit), review audio visual capabilities, overall set up and pick up the facility key.
- Program: Edna Early – Overview of DEI(J) – 15 minutes/with 10 minutes for Q&A.
Janet Ellinger and Panel from PFLAG of River Falls – 30 minutes with 10-15 for Q&A
- Vicki Harmon made a motion to pay make a donation of \$100.00 to PFLAG of River Falls. Rita seconded. Motion carried.
- Refreshments – provided by Board Members – Determined over email communication.
- Kate ~ give 2022-23 (18 month) financial overview
- Nancy ~ present 2023-24 budget (to be approved by Board at July meeting)
- Beth ~ present slate of officers and directors for election, introduce newly elected committee chairs
- Committee Chairs ~ present overview of 2022-23 activities: Accomplishments, how incorporating DEIJ focus.

- Hybrid Meeting ~ Communications & Media Committee will address the hybrid and recording aspects of the meeting as best as possible. Kris Surbaugh will oversee.
- Voting will be done by raise of hand.
- Pam Girtz has agreed to take minutes at the Annual Meeting because our current secretary is unable to attend the meeting.
- **How do we truly celebrate our league?**
Barb Katt suggested a toast. Carolyn Saunders will make the toast. Other suggestions: cake with writing on it and party favors.

Committee Reports

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEIJ) – Edna Early announced that Barb Katt has agreed to be the DEIJ Co-Director. They are exploring partnerships including WI Conservation Voices, a nonpartisan group focused on public health and natural resources.

Voter Services Committee – Patty Van Nevel and Rita Kearns are currently creating a video card to send to city, municipality and county clerks to thank, honor and build relationships with them. They also attended an All-Things Google class to build skills and help them better share materials. Met with Member Services to explore areas of collaboration. Plan to focus on youth engagement. Plan to meet with people/groups who are already engaging youth and build on those through partnership. Also celebrated the accomplishments of the recent election cycle, including VOTE411, voter registration and get out the vote campaigns. Shared that Kay Brooks sent a photo of a polling booth for kids to LWVWI. Well received by state.

Program Committee – Vicki Harmon reported that 17 people have signed up to for the next book study. Participants are reading Diane Wilson’s Spirit Car. League learned that Wilson’s speaker fee is not in our budget. Exploring a speaker through the U of M. Will also look into WI Conservation Voices.

Summer Picnics: August 24 at Kathy Palmquist’s home. Second picnic TBA, sometime at end of June or after July 4 at Melinda Hanson’s home, co-hosted by Janet Lestock and Liz Malanaphy.

Communications & Media Committee – Kris Surbaugh reported that committee worked hard to keep website, Facebook and Instagram up-to-date around the election cycle. Bi-weekly newsletter continues to be published. Will move forward with mail chimp in future. After some discussion, it was agreed that Carolyn will contact a possible volunteer who is not a member of the League for help with setting up a free Zoom account.

Member Services Committee – Marla Olson and Nanette Del Monaco were not able to attend. No report.

Budget Committee – Kate Manecke reported that LWVSCV will need to fund raise \$1400 - \$1,600 to meet the projected budget. Our League has never spent all of the money budgeted so this may not be an issue.

Old Business:

Insurance: Directors & Officers Update – No new information.

Update on Phone Conversations with Members – Irene Bugge reported that the project will be wrapped up by April 23. Approximately 40 people have been contacted. All were thanked and invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Many participated in phone conversations and some 1-1 meetings. Final metrics and more information will be available after project is completed.

Events/Venues for Summer Visibility – Discussed importance of planning ahead/calendaring for Grantoberfest, National Night Out, Community Parades & Festivals, Farmer’s Markets, etc.

New Business:

Election of Committee Chairs for 2023-24 – Beth Wood, Chair of the Nominating Committee submitted the following slate of committee chair candidates for election by the Board: Voter Services: Patty Van Nevel and Rita Kearns; Program: Vicki Harmon; Communications and Media: Kris Surbaugh; Member Services: Marla Olson and Nanette Del Monaco; Budget: Nancy Stewart. Kate Manecke seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Testimony/Video – MLD. Carolyn Saunders made a video about the positive experience that LWVSCV had with LWVWI Membership & Leadership Development program. The video will be part of the LWVWI annual meeting.

LWVWI Annual Meeting – June 9-10: Elect/Name delegates (recommend 2) however all who are present will be authorized to vote. Edna Early and Irene Bugge have voiced interest in attending. Edna, Irene and Vicki agreed to put together a gift basket that represents our area and connects to the theme of water for the silent auction.

LWVWI Annual Meeting

LaCrosse and online

Theme: “The Currents that Connect US”

<https://lwwisconsin.wixsite.com/lwwwi-annual-meeting>

Registration Fees: \$135 in person
\$65 online
Registration Deadline: May 17

MLD Award ~ The Chair is currently working on the application due May 10, 2023. She has requested events & data information from Committee Chairs.

June 20 Meeting – The Chair proposed holding an in-person transitional meeting (pending availability) with outgoing and incoming Board and Committee Leaders. 5:00 pm in the private dining room at Amery Village Pizzeria. First hour, meal and socializing, followed by a business meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7: 25.

Minute Taker: Irene Bugge.

Upcoming meetings:

Last Evening ~ Communications & Media Committee

April 25, 4:30pm ~ Program Committee

May 7, 2:00pm ~ Annual Meeting

NO Board of Directors Meeting in May

June 20, 5:00pm ~ Board & Committee Chairs