

League of Women Voters of St. Croix Valley
Board and Committee Chair Zoom Meeting Agenda
April 21, 2026, 4:00-5:00 pm

Board Members Present: Beth Wood, Irene Bugge, Kris Surbaugh, Katrina Larsen, Evanne Hunt, Barb Katt, Edna Early, Kathy Stretz.

Other Members Present: Kay Brooks, Liz Malanaphy, Janet Lestock

4:00 – 4:05 Welcome and Conversation

4:05 Business Meeting is called to Order

LWV Oath: *“We do solemnly swear that we will empower voters and defend our democracy. That we will faithfully execute our civic responsibility as nonpartisan advocates. We do this fearlessly, reflectively, and collectively. We act from a place of hope and collective power.”*

Approve Agenda. Unanimous approval of agenda with these additions to agenda:

- Storytelling project proposal from Liz Malanaphy (attached to end of these minutes).
- Unite and Rise summer plans
- Unanimous approval of agenda.

Approve Minutes: Unanimous approval of the March 19, 2026, Board and Committee Meeting minutes with one change.

- Under Current Business change word “submitted” to “obtained. “

Financials

Katrina Larsen provided the March financial update and will bring copies of the proposed budget to the annual meeting.

- Kay asked if we could add money for supplies, if needed, to the budget. Katrina said we have sufficient money to purchase necessary supplies.

Current Business

- **Storytelling Project Proposal** from Liz Malanaphy (attached to end of these minutes). Unanimous approval for LWV SCV to serve as a non-financial co-sponsor with Herd (a women-centered storytelling platform) on a project to uplift the voices of women in the Valley, in a combined workshop/storytelling event. Liz will serve as project lead. She plans to proceed with writing a grant.
- **LWV SCV Annual Meeting April 26.** Finalized plans for the Annual Meeting. Kathy reported that the greeting table will be staffed including a sign-in sheet for arrivals. Irene

agreed to create a survey including our Event Evaluation Form plus two other items: Issuers of Interest and willingness to volunteer for specific tasks (from our newly proposed Membership Application Form) to hand out at the end of the Annual Meeting. Katrina will send these forms to Irene.

- **Pre-Retreat Planning Meeting/Conversation May 19.** Irene asked for volunteers to help plan this meeting. Ad Hoc Planning Team includes: Beth Wood, Kris Surbaugh, Kathy Streitz, Barb Katt and Irene Bugge. Vicki Harmon is out of the country and will be included when available.
- **Membership Form.** Kathy asked if there was anything missing from the draft form. Irene suggested one small change. That we replace “why did you join the league” with a “3 sentence bio,” or “tell us about yourself in 3 sentences.” All Board members expressed appreciation for all of the work put into this initiative and support for moving ahead. The plan is to trial this new form for a year.
- **Flag Day Event** – June 14
- **Summer Picnics** – June 17 Heritage Center; NR and at July 15 at the Federic Depot
- **Valley Pride Event** -- June 20 -- now encompasses Hudson, River Falls, and New Richmond – Barb asked for the League contact. Who has received information to register for this event?
- **Partnering with P-B Indivisible to staff Farmers Market Tables.** Barb reported Indivisible members have been given voter registration information/training and they will help staff tabling events with League members Hub 1 and 2 will participate.
- **Metrics – Democracy Works Tracking/Annual Survey.** Irene stressed the importance keeping accurate documentation of all of our activities including numbers of participants. These are needed for reporting to LWV WI and LWV US. With our division into HUBs a new system needs to be developed.
- **Committee Chairs/Hub – Updates.** Kay is preparing folders for the Hub leaders and providing a detailed VR calendar.
- **LWV WI Annual Meeting -- May 29 & 30.** Irene encouraged Board attendance at the State Annual Meeting and asked if anyone was going to attend the meeting to let her know.
- **Unite and Rise.** Beth described what we are doing this summer.

Adjourned Meeting at 5:28pm

Next Board Meeting: IN PERSON - May 19, 2026, 4:00 – 5:00pm Business meeting followed by Pre-Retreat Planning SCF Library (5:00 – 8:00pm)

St. Croix Stories Creative Storytelling Proposal

Herd is a women-centered storytelling platform where women connect and empower each other by authentically and boldly sharing well-earned life stories.

<https://www.youareherd.org/>

St. Croix County League of Women Voters (a chapter of the National League of Women Voters) believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy. That's been their vision since 1920, when the League of Women Voters was founded by leaders of the women's suffrage movement. For 100 years, we have been a nonpartisan, activist, grassroots organization that believes voters should play a critical role in democracy.

It's a match made in heaven! Think "The Moth" Radio Hour right here in Western Wisconsin!

Herd and LWV St. Croix Valley will partner to uplift the voices of women in the Valley, in a combined workshop/storytelling event.

A workshop will help women embrace their vulnerability, share mistakes and triumphs and inspire other women along the way. Herd will facilitate a workshop to engage in the process of connecting life stories to a short prompt (to be determined) and employing the creative process to write and tell their story most effectively. Voila! Instant inspiration by women, for women.

Examples of a prompt might be:

Adapt

Vote

Strength in numbers

Outside

These can be interpreted in many ways!

A workshop format and performance will be determined according to the needs/availability of both organizations. Possibilities include a one day weekend workshop followed by an event, a multi-session workshopping opportunity with a weekend event, a weeknight process/event, or any combination of the above.

Funding possibilities would include grants, donations, or fees for the workshop. Potential partnerships may help offset some of the cost and engage more people.