

League of Women Voters of St. Croix Valley

Board and Committee Chair Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2026, 4:00 p.m. to about 5:00 p.m., via zoom

Board/ Leadership team present: Beth W, Irene B, Kris S, Vicki H, Barb K, Evanne, Kathy S., Edna E. (quorum requirements met)

Members/Guests present: Kay Brooks

4:00 – 4:02 Welcome to any membership joining us! Welcome leadership team!

4:03 Business Meeting is called to Order by Irene Bugge

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 the agenda with one addition:

- Leadership training

Approve Minutes

Unanimous approval of June 16, 2026, Board and Committee Meeting with one correction:

- Under Current business, LWV annual meeting – correct the misspelled name to *Debra Cronmiller*.

Financials

Update from Katrina

- End of Fiscal Year Report, 2025-2026 (see report at the end of these minutes)
- Approve Proposed 2026-2027 LWV SCV Budget (see report at the end of these minutes)
- FY26 YTD June 2026 (too large; not included)

Irene made a motion to approve the proposed 2026-2027 LWSCV budget effective July 17, 2026, with the following caveat:

This approval will not go into effect on July 17, 2026, if any substantial concerns about the budget are raised by members before that date. These concerns will be reviewed by the board and a budget will be approved at a later date.

Unanimous approval of the proposed 2026-2027 budget.

Current Business

- July/August Activities
 - Constitutional Amendment Educational Materials (See attached PDF at end of minutes) -- Beth asked if everyone was comfortable with the materials; if so, we can forward it to membership. Consensus is we will share with members and community.
Consensus is to NOT be involved in a *VOTE NO* campaign. Irene will take this message to the presidents' call on July 15.
 - Second Summer Picnic will be July 15 – Irene reported the picnic is postponed due to the heat.
 - Polk County Sheriff's forum/meet & greet is scheduled for July 16 – Irene reported the HUB does not have a large crew to work the event; she asked who is able to come.
 - Co-sponsor of CD 7 Candidate Forum hosted by Marathon County watch party is scheduled for July 21 – Beth reported she does have plenty of help for the event.
 - National Day of Action (August 8) - Unite Rise – Kay reported that there is no chapter-wide National Day of Action initiative. Instead, each HUB is offering voter education activities at farmers markets and other community events. Some were planned before the National Day of Action was announced.

Old Business

- Summer Picnic – June 17 - Heritage Center

Vicki H. reported 34 people attended; possibly the best outcome in recent years. A suggestion for future picnics is to create a food committee to reduce the amount of uneaten food.
- Pride Fest – Hudson – June 20

Kay reported it was very busy and they had plenty of help.
- Sustainable Leadership Retreat – Nov. 14, 9am-Noon, Osceola Town Hall

Barb requested a time slot at each board meeting to discuss what leadership individuals will do and wants to do in their role.
- Observer Corps progress

No report. Beth reminded everyone of the July 22 training offered by the National League.

- Los Amigos program

No report.

Next Board Meeting: August 18, 2026, via zoom – 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Adjourn Meeting at 5:10pm

LWVSCV

End of Fiscal Year Report, 2025-26

July 2026

The June 2026 year to date report is also the end of fiscal year report.

We ended the fiscal year with a healthy balance of over \$15,000. We were successful in fundraising with \$2,800 from Polk-Burnett 100 Women Who Care, \$600 Unite & Rise 8.5 Project Ready grant, \$1,209 Give Big Valleys (another \$100 showed up in July for a total of \$1,309), \$2,013.50 free will donations at events (most of this came from Readers Theater), individual donations of \$3,755.62 (this odd number is the result of fees on credit cards), and the quilt raffle & fundraising letter for a total of \$11,993.12.

We successfully transitioned from the old membership process (large invoices sent by LWV US & LWV WI once a year) to the new process set forth by LWV US. It was not without many hiccups. We are now current on our dues payments to the national & state offices. There are line items in the revenue section and administrative expense section that include the dues income and dues payment expenses. The process is complicated and I would be happy to explain if you are interested.

When you look at the end of year report, you will see we went over budget on some items and were under budget on others. Adjusting to how we are actually spending our money has been part of the 2026-27 budget planning process. Please keep in mind that budgets are guidelines to help with planning and changes are to be expected, especially in our turbulent times.

Notes About the 2026-27 Budget

The Budget Committee built the budget based on the changing needs of the League with input from board, project and committee leaders. We increased certain line items to be more in line with what we spent in FY26.

We included an Urgent Initiative Fund to help us be responsive to the constantly changing political environment such as the amendments on the November 3rd ballot. We also included funding for equipment like canopies and wagons that we use at farmers markets. We did not guess at the clothing income and expenses as this is our first ongoing clothing sale. Clothing prices were set up to cover costs plus a little extra.

Please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Katrina Larsen, Treasurer

LWV SCV Budget 2026-2027, Effective July 1, 2026

6/17/2026

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INCOME		Budget	Notes
Membership Dues*		1,090.00	Assumes 80 members paying \$75. LWVSCV gets 20% of dues paid. Of the recommended \$75 dues, \$13.61 goes to us. (20% of \$75 is \$15 minus credit card fees.)
Donations			
	Individual	3,000.00	
	Other	500.00	Free will donations at events
Grants		-	None planned currently
Fundraisers		5,675.00	Figure generated to balance the budget
Sales, income		-	Income from clothing & other sales
TOTAL INCOME		10,265.00	
EXPENSES		Budget	
Administrative			
	Legal Fees (WI DFI annual fee)	30.00	Anticipate increase from \$25 to \$30
	Computer/Web	275.00	Gravity form annual payment (PayPal) anticipated increase to \$175, misc repairs & updates to website
	Saris Web Design	660.00	Currently \$50/mon, anticipate increase to \$55/mon for contracted web support
	QuickBooks subscription	480.00	Anticipate QuickBooks monthly cost to go up like last 2 years on July 1, \$38 to \$40
	Zoom subscription	200.00	Anticipate increase to \$200
	Postage/Copies	125.00	Increased to be close to actual use in 2025-26
	Supplies	350.00	Hospitality bins and unanticipated expenses, increased to be close to actual use in 2025-26
	Insurance	425.00	Increased to adjust for increased membership
	Room Rental	300.00	3 rentals @ \$100
	LWV Upper MS River Region Dues	25.00	Per LWVUSRR treasurer
	Equipment	500.00	Canopies, wagon, etc.
	Urgent Initiative Fund	2,500.00	Fund to address unanticipated initiatives such as addressing 3 new amendments on Nov 3 election
Total Administrative		5,870.00	
Programs			
	Sound/Video	100.00	
	Speaker Fee	250.00	
	Readers Theater	475.00	Print costs, refreshments & room rental
	Unite & Rise	100.00	
Total Program Costs		925.00	
Member Services			
	Packets	75.00	
	Printing	100.00	
	Postage	150.00	
	Hospitality for member events	300.00	Reimbursement limited to \$100
Total Member Services		625.00	
Voter Services			
	Signs	320.00	Type of signs to be determined
	Copies/Publicity	300.00	
	Postage	600.00	Postcards, postage
	Candidate Forums/Meet & Greets	300.00	
	Supplies	300.00	
	Bookmarks	500.00	
Total Voter Services		2,320.00	
Budget/Fundraising			
	Fundraising, miscellaneous fees	250.00	\$100 for Give Big 2027
	Fundraising, letter	275.00	
Total Budget/Fundraising		525.00	
Sales, expenses		-	Payment for clothing & other sales
TOTAL EXPENSES		10,265.00	

*Anticipated income once all payments between LWVUS & LWVSCV reconciled.

Constitutional Amendment Educational Materials

Dear Presidents:

June 7, 2026

I am Joan Schwarz, Chair of the state Impartial Justice Committee. As many of you know, we have been working on documents each league can use to educate your members about the Anti-Equity Constitutional Amendment that will appear on our November 3rd midterm ballots. It will be helpful that each member uses these documents with any local organizations in your area to educate as many voters as possible. Our committee has partnered with many organizations (Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, NASW, AAUW, Indivisible, NOW, business organizations, etc.), all of whom have agreed to forward our documents to their members. We are continuing to expand our partnerships.

Attached to your email, you will find 3 documents:

- **FACT SHEET:** This document is best used within your league to educate your members. If you have any other groups that are familiar with this amendment, you can share with them as well. This document underwent many edits and is an improved copy of the one I sent earlier which you can now discard. This Fact Sheet can be placed in your newsletters and websites and can be used at meetings and in any other way helpful to your members.
- **FLYER:** This document is best used outside of your league since it explains the negative consequences if this amendment passes and is designed more for the public. This flyer will be good at Farmers Markets, and any other events open to the public. When distributed, members hopefully will provide information for any questions the public may have.
- **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION:** This presentation clearly explains the differences between “equality” and “equity” and provides much more information about the negative consequences in Wisconsin to education, health and environmental equity, businesses, etc., should this amendment pass. This presentation was created by Mary Voegl and Patty Kueke, members of the Impartial Justice committee, and approved by the Impartial Justice Committee. Mary Voegl has narrated the slides, and it is ready to use in any way your league decides.

MORE LOCAL LEAGUE OUTREACH: LTE's AND POSTCARD PARTES:

On the LWVWI website is much more information for each league. The Toolkit will be ready by the end of the week. In the Toolkit will be multiple LTE formats for your members' use to draft their own LTEs. It is suggested that each league organize members to write LTEs since some papers will only take one letter from each person. We need LTEs sent regularly.

The Committee wants to track LTEs from all members. When one sends an LTE, please forward the LTE to John Callan boito@sbcglobal.net who will keep a spreadsheet of all LTEs. Please have each member follow up with him with the date and newspaper where the LTE is published.

In addition, pre-printed postcards will be made available to local leagues. A uniform message will be on the postcards so coalition partners will speak with one voice to be most effective.

Please look for the Order Form from Amanda Peterson apeterson@lwvwi.org Postcard mailing lists will be available from Sinceree Dixon, League Communications Director at sdixon@lwvwi.com. Postcard-writing parties are an important activity for your members.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Now is a good time to use social media to educate the public about the amendment. Until approximately August, we are focused on education. Lobbying will begin in late summer/ early fall and will move into a VOTE NO campaign in coalition with many of our partners.

MEDIA:

There will be media outreach later in the summer.

YOUTUBE SERIES ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The Impartial Justice committee has begun monthly YouTube presentations. Our June presentation is now available on the League YouTube channel. Attorney Rachel Synder from Law Forward discusses the legal issues and intentionally deceptive language of this amendment.

Our July speaker is UW Professor Suzanne Eckes who will discuss the seriously negative consequences on education in K-12 and the university level, if this amendment passes.

Our August speaker is Kadijha Marquardt-Davis, Founder and Director of ECCHO, Engaging Communities to Change Health Outcomes, who will present on the damaging consequences to health care and health equity. More speakers will provide presentations in September and October.

WEBINAR:

On September 8th (6:30-8:00) the Impartial Justice Committee has scheduled a webinar with speakers who will be able to discuss the many detrimental consequences of this amendment on education, health equity, environmental equity, employment and businesses for unrepresented members of our communities.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Please contact me at advocacy.jschwarz@gmail.com or call (608) 345-5973. Unfortunately, I am not available for the Presidents' Call on July 15th, so please ask your questions before or after the Call. If you email me, please use the **Subject Heading of "Constitutional Amendment"** so I do not miss your email. I will also speak to your league if invited.

Thank you,

Joan Schwarz, Chair of the LWVWI Impartial Justice Committee



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW WI CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026 BALLOT

BALLOT LANGUAGE

"Governmental Entity Discrimination Prohibited: Shall section 27 article 1 of the constitution be created to prohibit governmental entities in the state from discriminating against, or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education, public contracting, or public administration?"

WHAT THIS AMENDMENT MEANS?

The title and first part of the ballot question lead voters to believe that is a new law to stop government from discriminating against people. That's misleading. Wisconsin and federal law already make discrimination illegal.

So, what does this amendment intend to accomplish? **It prohibits the state from granting "preferential treatment" to marginalized people.** If this amendment passes, it will eliminate the equity-based gains Wisconsin has made over the last 60 years.

While framed as promoting equality, this amendment would reduce Wisconsin's capacity to address long-standing disparities. It would strip public systems of tools essential for promoting **equal opportunity and equitable access to the vulnerable in our society.**

WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF THIS AMENDMENT PASSES?

Government programs that help people have an equal chance to succeed would be unconstitutional, ending decades of work to fix inequality.

- o **What will be gained:** Nothing
- o **What will be lost:** 60 years of progress for women and underserved communities

WHAT PROGRAMS AND POLICIES COULD BE ELIMINATED?

- o **Health and Environmental Equity:** Programs that address higher rates of chronic illness, disease, and mortality; maternal and infant mortality for the Black population
- o **Education:** Programs that address K-12 accommodations, curriculum, UW admissions, scholarships, grants, courses, textbooks
- o **Community-Action Programs:** Head Start and social-support networks for operating food banks, homeless shelters, and domestic violence shelters
- o **Government, Businesses, and Contracts:** Workplace initiatives for women, public contracts for certified minority-owned firms, equitable hiring, promotion and retention; the WI Supplier Diversity Program and WI Fast Forward program

Find more information at: <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/constitutional-corner> or contact: lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org