



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

December 1, 2023



From Our Leadership Team:

As we look toward 2024, we would like to encourage all LWVSCV members to reflect on the success of the past year, and everything we accomplished together as a league.

In preparation for our 2024 Kickoff on January 14, let's review and refocus on the LWV mission of education, empowerment, engagement, and *getting out the Vote*.

We encourage all members to join in where and when they can. No task is too small and each contribution is vital to our success.

We go into 2024 with a commitment to using our time wisely and with purpose. *Going forward we request that all league gatherings have a purpose of educating and action.*

Together let's encourage, support, and grow.

Forward in strength and purpose!

Beth & Irene, Co-Chair

Did you know?

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin has a plethora of information that will help us move confidently into 2024.

- The [Voting Ambassador's Tool Kit](#) is an amazing place to start with information for all members. The toolkit includes key dates, messaging timelines, social media graphics and talking points.
- The [Voting Ambassador Toolkit](#) was updated for the 2024 Elections.

Check out the information at <https://tinyurl.com/votetoolkit>

Issues Briefing Recap:

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin recently held three issues briefings. Held on three separate nights the issues discussed were as follows:

Setting the Stage : Redistricting in Wisconsin.

Citizen Action at the State Level: Wisconsin Constitutional Amendments.

Overcoming Barriers to Voting & Election Administration Challenges.

All of the sessions were recorded and can be accessed via the following link.

<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/event/lwvwi-issues-briefing-2023-preparing-elections-2024>

Several of our Chapter's League members attended some or all of these briefings.

On Thursday, November 16 th the Program Committee facilitated a "Debriefing" on the three presentations. The members attending the debriefing session discussed each session and then generated a list of action items stemming from their discussion for the LWVSCV to consider in the coming year.

League Snippets



Mary Bjorgaad lives in Danbury, and is a charter member of our local chapter of the LWV. At our November 2 League Coffee in Webster, Mary shared a brief story about what first drew her to the League.

Mary's snippet:

During the mid-1980's, I was invited to speak to an early LWV chapter in Burnett County. I was a new, young public health nurse at the time and gave a brief presentation about the services we offered, in particular, women's reproductive health services.

At the end of my presentation, the League members started firing questions at me. Questions like: "Are you telling me a young woman can come in without her parents' permission?" and "You can issue contraceptives from your office?"

Expecting them to be critical, I paused, took a deep breath and answered: "Yes." Instead of criticism, the women were surprised by my answer, and said that they were pleased and impressed that we could offer these services.

I knew at that moment I had found a group of like-minded women. I attended a few candidate forums that the League organized and appreciated that they were committed to allowing all perspectives to be heard. I was also impressed with how they handled boisterous crowds.

Fast forward 30 years. The early League chapter in Burnett County had disbanded but I never forgot those powerful League women I met in the 1980's.

In 2015, I became a charter member of what is now the League of Women Voters of St. Croix Valley.

We all have a League Snippet. It may be a story about what drew you to the League. Perhaps it is a highpoint experience in the League. Maybe it's a story about how the core mission of the League resonates with your background and values.

We would like to continue featuring League Snippets in our Newsletter. Mary's snippet is about 200 words! Please contact irenebugge@gmail.com with your League Snippet.



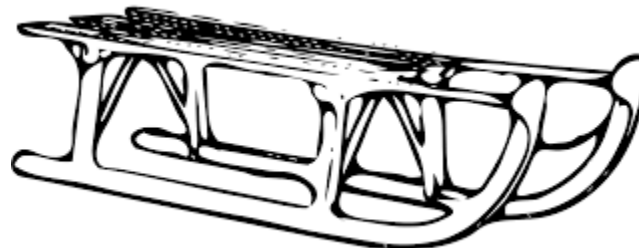
Winter Gathering

After the holidays, the next in-person event is our all-League winter gathering which will kick off Election Year – 2024.

We hope that all members will prioritize attending this event. We will gather with purpose to reconnect with fellow League members across our three counties and discuss League plans for the upcoming election year. Also, League members are amazing women, so this is an opportunity to socialize with others who share your values and will inspire! 2024 is going to be a big year!

Join us at the Riverwood Nature Center, Star Prairie, WI on Sunday, January 14, 2024, 2:00 – 5:00 RSVP Beth Wood at [<bwood@frontiernet.net>](mailto:bwood@frontiernet.net)

If you are traveling a great distance, consider carpooling with others. Anyone driving from Burnett or northern Polk County can contact Kris Surbaugh at aksurbaugh@gmail.com or 715-566-1186 (text or call) to help organize rides.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 1 Newsletter
8 *Just for Fun Coffee* at Fusion Bistro in Webster 10AM
15 Newsletter
19 Community Conversations: Jail Voting, 12-1pm
19 Board/Committee Chairs Meeting, 4-5pm

**January 14 Winter Gathering,
Riverwood Nature Center, Star Prairie, 2-5 pm**



Many ways to inform our voters!

League member, Kay Brooks, volunteers to send something every month to the ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) in all three counties, as well as to a representative of the Tribes.

She sends either voter registration or election information when there is going to be an election. During the time this summer and fall when we didn't have an election, she sent a series of Ballot Bulletins that the state League put out.

Her submission is included in their newsletter that goes out to hundreds of seniors and disabled people. Kay says that typically she edits the text to be in short and clear understandable messaging.

Thank you , Kay, for the work you do to educate that demographic of our community.



Use this handy QR code to easily access our League Of Women Voters St Croix Valley website!

Open your camera on your phone and hold it over the code. The website will pop up on your screen and take you right to our home page.

Also, you could take a picture of this code to keep a copy handy to share with friends, family, and potential new members!

OUR MISSION

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

OUR VISION

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

OUR VALUE

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

***Interested in moving into a new position in the League?
Find a committee that fits your skills and passion***

Voters Services–Committee

Contacts

- Voter Services
- Get Out The Vote Events
- Voter Registration Events
- Meet The Candidate Events

Patty Van Nevel:

pattyvannevel@gmail.com

Rita Kearns:

ritakearns54@gmail.com

- Social Events (Annual Meeting, Summer Picnic)
- Education Programs
- Special Events
- Reader’s Theater
- Book Study

Vicki Harmon:

vickiharmon@gmail.com

Member Services

- Member Enrichment Events
- Member Recruitment
- Manage Recruitment materials in public places

Contact Irene Bugge if interested:

irenebugge@gmail.com

Program Committee

Communications & Media

- Website & Social Media
- Newsletter
- Press Releases & Research Writing

Kris Surbaugh:

aksurbaugh@gmail.com

**“Our words are the oars in the boats,
our direction is civility, and our path is reflection.”**

–Lynn Forbes co-president of the League of Women Voters Nevada County, California