



*OUR MISSION: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

January 15, 2024



### **League Members Gather to Kick off 2024—Get Out The Vote!**

Despite sub-zero temps and an important Packer game, these League members gathered at the Riverwood Nature Center to explore a 'taste of the League' and view displays from each League Committee.

Members were invited to explore and learn more about Voters Service, Members Service, DEI+J, all with the intention of learning what they can do to 'Get Out The Vote' in 2024. Displays included the League's Spinning Wheels and Storytime Kits.



Committee chairs discussed ways that members can contribute in a way that they find most comfortable, do-able, and fulfilling.



Katrina Larsen was on hand to display the variety of yard signs available to League Members. If you are interest in signage contact Katrina at [katrina\\_larsen@yahoo.com](mailto:katrina_larsen@yahoo.com)





\*80 percent of success is just showing up (Woody Allen)

## SUFFRAGIST QUILT DONATED BY CAROL JOHNSON



Displayed at our event was the quilt made especially for the League of Women Voters St Croix Valley and donated by Carol Johnson. We thank Carol and deeply appreciate her willingness to lend her skills to the League's story. We hope it will inspire other League members to dig into our history and learn a little more. This is Carol's story:

Carol Johnson has been a member of LWV SCV since April of 2022. She contacted our league wondering if we might be interested in a quilt that she was designing using suffragist blocks. We replied with a resounding YES!

The quilt Carol donated to our League includes blocks with photos of women in the Women's Suffrage Movement, e.g., Lucretia Mott, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. While other blocks include historical quotes by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Anna Julia Cooper, Ida B Wells, Emmeline Pankhurst, Amelia Bloomer, Susan B Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Francis Watkins Harper. There are other blocks with photos at protests.

“Working on this quilt was somewhat of an adventure,” Carol said. She did some reading and research about the Suffrage Movement, including parsing out the differences between the terms Suffragist and Suffragette. She said that some sources described Suffragists as peaceful advocates of obtaining voting rights for women and Suffragettes as willing to take on a more activist role. Today these words are essentially interchangeable.

Carol also said that she wished she had been able to find fabric that included more representations of African American women because they were instrumental in helping to get the 19th Amendment to the Constitution ratified. Unfortunately, after the 19th Amendment passed, *about five million black women continued to be denied the right to vote*, most particularly in the southern states.

She recommends a Politico article <http://tinyurl.com/votesforblackwomen> which brings to light the Jim Crow laws of the south.

“It is important that all of us understand and celebrate the history of Women’s Suffrage. If I ever find quilting fabrics that include the important role women of color played in that movement *you can bet I’ll design another quilt.*”

### **Mark your calendar with these 2024 Election Dates**

Tuesday, February 20:	Spring Primary
Tuesday, April 2:	Spring and Presidential Preference Election
Tuesday, August 13:	Partisan Primary Election
Tuesday, November 5:	General Election



## **A Message from Voter Service**

In 2024 all three countries will have elections - April, August and November. There are many opportunities to help voters register. We invite you to volunteer with a project or two.

Please consider - We are looking for [High School Liaisons](#) to connect with established contacts and offer LWVSCV voter registration for eligible students this spring!

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On Tuesday, January 16, members can join WI VS for a community conversation on **best practices for HS registrations**. This is an excellent chance to sit in on a Zoom meeting and hear how some experts have succeeded.

This is the link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82341370453?pwd=UjVLTm45R1g0ZXZYnlg2bzdYLzJiQT09#success>

(You will need to copy and paste it into your browser search window).

Hope you can find time to sit in. Meeting starts at noon and is over at 1.

### **Front row seat....**

Another opportunity for our league members to engage is as a volunteer as an Election Observer. LWV-WI is providing information/training to anyone who would like to be involved. A link to find out more about being an Election Observer-

<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/about/employment-and-volunteer-opportunities-league>

Please copy and paste into your browser search window.

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We are looking for members to **help with voter registration events** and promotion of voting/election information. What can you do in the coming year? Let us know!

We have opportunities galore:

Farmers Markets, festivals, outdoor celebrations, parades

Postcard and Text blitz

Sign rallies

Election observers

Voter Registration events - High Schools, Tech Colleges

Signposting

Jail outreach

DMV voter registration

Patty Van < [pattyvannevel@gmail.com](mailto:pattyvannevel@gmail.com) > & Rita K < [ritakearns54@gmail.com](mailto:ritakearns54@gmail.com) >



Watch our  
newsletter for  
League aligned  
nonpartisan  
activism  
opportunities.





## **The Report from Member Services:**

(Irene) I would like to thank Kathy Streitz for agreeing to co-chair the Member Services committee.

She joined the league in February of 2022 and has been an active member of Voter Services Committee.

She told me she plans to continue to serve on voter services and lead Member Services.

Kathy is brand new to her leadership role, agreeing to serve just before the holidays. The position had been vacant for a couple of months and I have been pinch hitting. And right now, I am serving as Kathy's interim backup. After the position was vacated, I spent some time interviewing past chairs, Marla Olson, Nanette DelMonico, and Barb Wetzel. Sincere thanks to those ladies who gave me so much wonderful information that helped me write a position description and reread an inspiring article entitled: Becoming a more Welcoming League, which is what Member Services is all about. In business terms, Member Services is the Human Resources Department. But *In the League*, we often use more poetic language.

- ❖ Voter Services is described as the “heart” of the League -- the core of what we do.
- ❖ And from my vantage point Member Services is the “heartbeat” of the organization.

Kathy has an Irish Proverb at the end of her emails. The Proverb: “It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.” This says a lot about who Kathy is.

*How could you resist the opportunity to co-chair a committee with this woman or serve on a committee?*



## ***A Message from the Communications Chair:***

My name is Kris Surbaugh, and I'm the Chair of the Communications and Media Committee.

I stepped into the role of communications and media chair in the winter of 2022–

One of my priorities was to create a newsletter. My hope was that all vital and timely information could be shared with our membership in one package. The newsletter is becoming a valuable tool thanks to the committees utilizing it as a place to inform our membership with all that's going on.

Of course there are other aspects to Communication and that is Media: I want to thank **Evanne Hunt** for her brilliant work keeping our website up to date and looking good. The website is our public face, and we can be proud of what the public sees.

Another public face is of course our social media: **Beth Wood** keeps it current and vital by posting notices and information on both FACEBOOK and Instagram. Thank you Beth! (If you are a member on these social media sites be sure to 'like' and 'share' this information! It's an easy way to contribute to the League's message!)

Thanks to both **Kay Brooks** who communicates through our county's ADRC newsletter and writes articles for the local papers and thank you to **Kathie Nelson** for all your work with graphic designs.

But I really want to thank all of you reading this today. Because as League members, we are all in charge of communication. We are all the standard bearers for the League's policies and goals. When we speak to our neighbors. When we talk with our friends and family. We must strive to uphold the intent of the League.

*Consider first and foremost that we are nonpartisan.* This is going to be a year to challenge us all, but we must adhere to that fundamental principle.



Remember that every day our friends and neighbors are facing a bombardment of misinformation and disinformation—it is challenging to have those conversations when folks are being so misled. But you know what? You don't have to change anyone's mind. All you need to do is plant the seeds of critical thinking. Be informed so that you can offer the truth when folks are being misled.

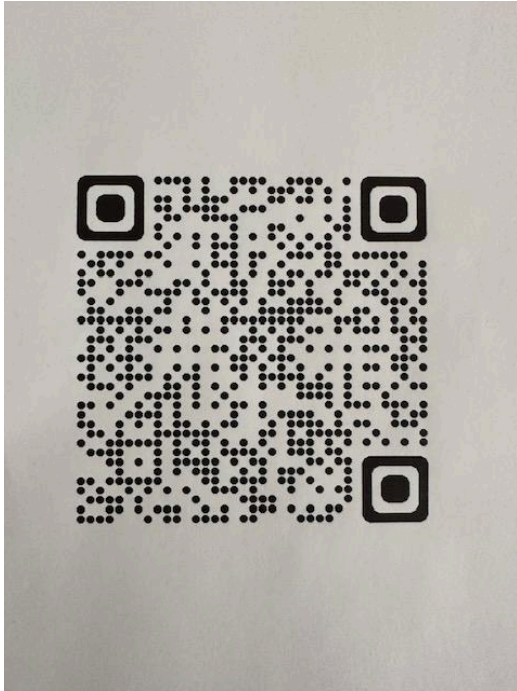
- If you are unsure on how to have those conversations, we have access to lots of training. These are available from both the state and national level. Most of these are online and can be accessed at your convenience.

We will continue to offer all these opportunities in our bimonthly newsletter. And do not hesitate to reach out to me, or others who are listed today, and we'll find the answers together.

So, again, thank you all for being the face of the League of Women Voters of St Croix Valley.

*I'm proud to be among you.*





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!

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## 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.*

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*Interested in moving forward in 2024?  
Try out a new position in the League!  
Committee mentors will help you find a place  
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](mailto:pattyvannevel@gmail.com)

Rita Kearns:

[ritakearns54@gmail.com](mailto:ritakearns54@gmail.com)

**Member Services**

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

Kathy Streit

[kfstreitz@gmail.com](mailto:kfstreitz@gmail.com)

Irene Bugge

[irenebugge@gmail.com](mailto:irenebugge@gmail.com)

**Program Committee**

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

Beth Wood (interim contact)

[bwood@frontiernet.net](mailto:bwood@frontiernet.net)

**Communications & Media**

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

Kris Surbaugh:

[aksurbaugh@gmail.com](mailto: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



