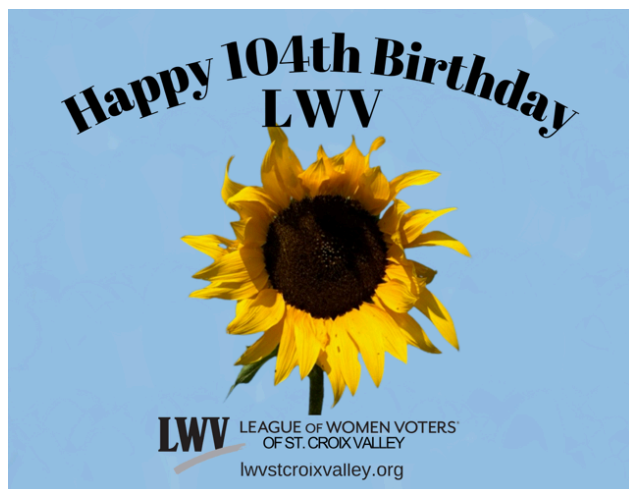




**OUR MISSION:** *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

February 15, 2024



**On February 7, 2024, Kate Manecke and Edna Early kicked off the 2024 voters outreach in time to celebrate the 104 Anniversary of the founding of the LWV!**

*<In 1890 the National American Women Suffrage Association, led by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cody Stanton, chose the sunflower as their emblem.>*

Edna and Kate set up in the UW River Falls Student Union from 11-2PM. Edna said it was very easy to get access to the campus, but there is a cost involved—\$50 per table used. However, in just a few hours on the University of River Falls campus they spoke to more than 35 students about voters registration and how to locate accurate information about candidates.

The spinning wheel attracted the students, but they were more interested in the QR code for easy registration access and trustworthy information.

Edna and Kate also used the quote cubes created by Voters Services. The quote cubes include everyone from Taylor Swift to Ronald Reagan. Despite comments, the team kept to their non-partisan message.

Edna says, “Always love hanging out with young people promoting the privilege to vote! All went extremely well and it was lots of fun. “



Edna and Kate said that it was “easy peasy” to set up and take down the display!

Grab a buddy and contact Voters Services for help launching your own event!



**Patty and Kay at Northwoods!**

A great way to participate in Voters Registration is to partner with a mentor.

Contact Voters Services for more information:

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



**LWVSCV TO HOST  
FIRST IN-PERSON FORUMS  
SINCE COVID**

**County Board of Supervisor  
Candidate Forums**

Our League chapter is hosting three forums for County Board of Supervisor candidates. We are excited to be offering our first forums since Covid in all three of the counties we serve. These in-person events will give residents in Polk, St. Croix, and Burnett counties an opportunity to meet candidates running in contested races and learn about their positions on issues before they vote in the Spring Election, April 2, 2024.

*Polk County ~ Tuesday, March 5 ~ 5:30-7:30pm*

at the Polk County Justice Center

1004 W. Main St. ~ Balsam Lake

*St. Croix County ~ Thursday, March 7 ~ 5:30-7:30pm*

at the United Methodist Church

1401 Laurel Ave. ~ Hudson

*Burnett County ~ Tuesday, March 12 ~ 5:30-7:30pm*

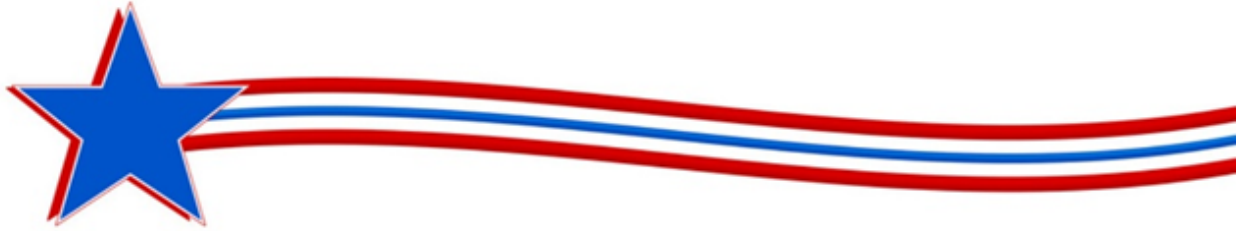
at the Burnett County Government Center

7410 Cty. Rd. K ~ Siren

**We encourage all League members to attend the forum in your county.**

Thanks to Carolyn Saunders and her team: Miriam Flysjo, Colleen Foxwell, Janet Lestock, Liz Malanaphy, Kathy Keinholtz, Beth Wood, and Irene Bugge

The Candidate Forum team could also use some volunteer help from League members at each event. If you would like to help the evening of the event (e.g. greeting, handing out question cards to the audience, setting up the refreshment table) please contact Carolyn at [csuanders1949@yahoo.com](mailto:csuanders1949@yahoo.com)



**AND THERE'S MORE ...**

**On-line Candidate Information**

**Primary Races for County Boards of Supervisors**

The Candidate Forum Team also contacted the six candidates for County Board of Supervisors, three in Polk and three in Burnett, who are running in the Primary on February 20. The primary will narrow down these two three-way races to two candidates each for the Spring Election.

The League sent emails to the six candidates asking if they would be willing to provide written answers to questions with their answers posted on our League website.

Thanks to Evanne Hunt, our secretary and webmaster, this information is now available to the public on our website on an easy-to-access link:

<https://lwwstcroixvalley.org/county-boards-of-supervisors/>

A public service announcement will be in this week's Polk and Burnett County newspapers which will include our League's website. A link to the information will also be posted on social media.

**AND MORE . . .**

## On-line Candidate Information

### Boards of Education

In order to help voters learn about **Board of Education** candidates running in contested races in Polk, Burnett and St. Croix counties, the Candidate Forum Team sent emails asking if they would be willing to provide written answers to questions with the answers posted on our League web site.

This information can be found after the primary at <https://lwwstcroixvalley.org/boards-of-education/>



**APRIL 2 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**  
**VOTE NO**  
Elections need to be fully funded  
Feb. 27 6pm  
Virtual  
LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WISCONSIN

### *From LWV Wisconsin:*

*Elections need to be fully funded. The proposed constitutional amendment on the April 2nd ballot puts our elections at risk.*

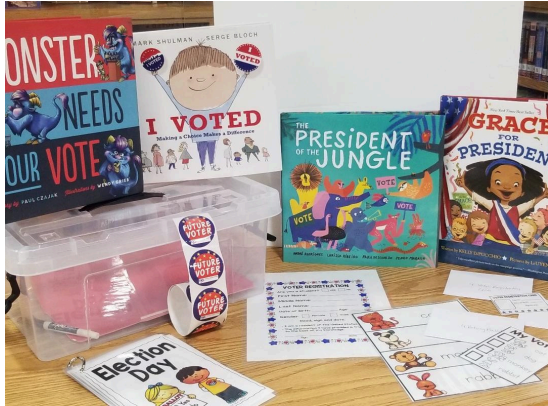
*Join us on to learn about the constitutional amendment*

*questions that will be on your ballot on April 2 and why you should VOTE NO. Speakers will discuss the constitutional amendments in Wisconsin and what we can expect next.*

Use this link to find out more about why to vote 'NO' and to register:

<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/event/april-2-constitutional-amendment-vote-no>  
<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/event/april-2-constitutional-amendment-vote-no>

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## League Members Outreach Training

The League of Women Voters St Croix Valley encompasses three counties in Wisconsin. That is a lot of territory.

It isn't always convenient for members to drive hours to have a face-to-face training, but many members still want to participate in their own communities.

The solution is small group training sessions held in each county.

Barb Katt and Kris Surbaugh met in Webster with four other LWV members from Burnett County. The purpose was to demonstrate two of the tool kits that the LWVSCV has available to members for public outreach. Also, to allow members to share their insights and ideas that can contribute to the whole League.

Barb demonstrated the spinning wheel kit and Kris demonstrated the story time kit. Both are available for members who wish to participate in either of these two activities.

Small group sessions can happen anywhere, anytime. Contact League leaders to find out how. We'll help you find the tools you need.

**PFAS**  
**THE EVERYDAY**  
**EVERYWHERE**  
**TOXIN**

March 12th, 6:30-8:00 pm via Zoom

Meleesa Johnson  
Executive Director, Wisconsin's Green Fire

Dr. Beth Neary  
Co-President, Wisconsin Environmental Health Network

News about PFAS is infiltrating our lives and isn't going away. Contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS, has been found in sites all over Wisconsin, stemming from any number of the many ways these substances are used.

To arm yourself for the fight to clean our waters and protect the health of Wisconsinites, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin invites you to join us in the first of two virtual webinars that delve into how PFAS get into our bodies, how to protect ourselves, and what is happening at the state and federal level to mitigate this issue.

## *Topics:*

- *The origins of PFAS*
- *Where it's found in Wisconsin*
- *How it enters our bodies and those most at risk*
- *Health effects*
- *Current requirements that affect WI*
- *Personal protection measures*
- *And more*

*Register for this webinar here:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrf-CgqTkqE92p77dbe48bMv916xN-x3X#/registration>

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## A Message from Voters Services ~

Voter Services continues to look for ways to build civic engagement in our communities. The most ambitious goal this year is to get 18 year olds registered to vote. It involves building relationships with schools, training students to host a voter registration drive and having volunteers present on that day to offer guidance. Once again we urge all of our members to familiarize themselves with the Online Voter Registration process.

Here is a terrific slideshow demonstration thanks to LWVGCV!

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/16h-K3hovPjE\\_jSX1VCbxZx7ZePfYDYk\\_/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16h-K3hovPjE_jSX1VCbxZx7ZePfYDYk_/view?usp=sharing)

Our League has begun to visit area schools to Get Out the Vote (GOTV) for our 18+ year olds. Edna, Kate and Katrina were at UWRF, Kay and Patty visited Chippewa Valley Technical College and Beth and Patty were guests at Northwood Technical College. We were greeted so graciously by staff and students. We are doing our best to get students fired up to register to vote and make a plan to get it done.

Our next push is to get into all the high schools in our League. Please contact Rita or Patty if you would like to help us with this driving cause!



We have secured a spot in the St Patrick's Day parade in New Richmond on March 17.

Line up on the corner of S Knowles and West Third St (by the Shamrock Bar) at 3 o'clock. Parade at 4.

Call/email [Rita](#) (651 492 8885) or [Patty](#) (651 271 9942) if you want to be part of the Shenanigans.



**Fair Maps Arrive in  
Wisconsin After Years of  
Partisan Gerrymandering**

***Public Statement From the  
LWV-WI!***

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Madison, Wis. -- Today, the Wisconsin State Legislature passed the maps

Governor Evers sent to the Supreme Court for consideration in *Clarke v. WEC*. When the Governor signs them, this will be a win for the people of Wisconsin and the fair maps movement. The Governor's maps dismantle the 2011 partisan gerrymander, which guaranteed a dominant majority in the Legislature and thwarted the will of the people. For more than a decade, these maps have undermined Wisconsin's progressive governing history, making elected officials unaccountable to their constituents in favor of big money donors and party agendas.

***Under the Governor's maps, Wisconsin voters will pick their elected officials – not the other way around.***

To read more:

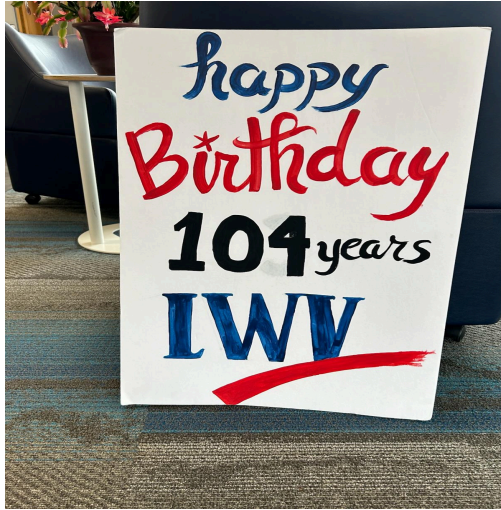
<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/article/fair-maps-arrive-wisconsin-after-years-partisan-gerrymandering>

***Link to Governor's State Senate Maps:***

<https://fairmapswi.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0dea4a12fad01f5b070e3f421&id=7762088f87&e=7d741492ed>

***Link to Governor's Assembly Maps:***

<https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::3ea16205-6662-4951-afda-27bb434b32a9>



## Gather to Celebrate!

When: Wednesday, February 28, 10:00-11:30  
am

Where: Fusion Bistro Cafe Market  
7436 Main St W, Webster

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### ***Welcome to two new members!***

Karen Magnuson lives in  
Baldwin.

Sue Irle lives in Star Prairie

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### **I Still Believe in the Power of Women**

By Virginia Kase Solomón

“My superpower is not unique: in fact, it is the same as yours. And together, we have the most tremendous power [that] this country, perhaps the world, has ever seen. We are the power of women... the sum of our collective voices, working to create a more perfect democracy.”

***Read all of this powerful message from outgoing CEO of the National League of Women Voters Virginia Kase Solomón.***

(copy and paste to find full article) <http://tinyurl.com/lwvpowerofwomen>

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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.*

**February Events:**

**Tuesday, February 20: Spring Primary**

Tuesday, February 20: LWVSCV Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 27: LWVWI ad hoc Constitutional Amendment Zoom

Wednesday, February 28: Members Gather in Webster/Fusion Cafe

**Keep in Mind:**

Tuesday, March 5: Polk County Bd of Supervisors Candidate Forum

Thursday, March 7: St. Croix County Bd of Supervisors Candidate Forum

Tuesday, March 12: Burnett County Bd. of Supervisors Candidate Forum

Tuesday, March 12: PFAS Zoom with LWV-WI

Wednesday, March 13: Last day for online registrations for Spring Election

**Tuesday, April 2: Spring and Presidential Preference Election**

**Sunday, April 28: LWVSCV Annual Meeting, 2:00 - 5:00, Amery**

Friday/Saturday,  
June 7-8: LWV-WI Annual Meeting (Green Bay)

Saturday, June 22: Valley Wide Pride Fest -- Hudson

Tuesday, August 13: Partisan Primary Election

Tuesday, September 17: National Voters Registration Day

Tuesday, November 5: General Election

**“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

### **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 (interim)

[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)



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!

