



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

March 15, 2024



Starting the season with Candidate Forums!

The LWVSCV hosted three successful, well attended forums, one in each of our home counties on March 5 (Polk) St. Croix (March 7) and Burnett (March 12).

The Forum Committee of Liz Malanaphy, Janet Lestock, Miriam Flysjo, Colleen Foxwell, Kathryn Kienholz, Irene Bugge, and Beth Wood, worked diligently under the direction of Carolyn Saunders to plan, organize, and facilitate the forums.

Volunteers greeted and informed the public on the proceedings and answered

questions about the League.



(photo above) Beth Wood introducing candidates in St. Croix County.

(photo left) Carolyn Saunders and Pam Girtz at Burnett County Forum

In addition to Candidate Forums, School Board Candidates in local elections were asked to submit responses to League questions.

Evanne Hunt entered all the School Board Candidate questions and answers on our website.

The committee thanks all the league Volunteers that served in hospitality and voter services to ensure the forums went smoothly and were something we all can be proud of. The LWVSCV received a lot of positive feedback and press following each forum. Together we did our part in the pursuit of defending democracy and empowering voters. Thank you to everyone who participated in this very important project.

(photo) Miriam Flysjo and Robin Maercklein volunteer as time-keepers at the Burnett Co. Forum.



A Note from our Co Presidents:

Thank you to all of the LWV SCV membership for your commitment to the mission of the LWV during this heightened election year. To help all of us continue to adhere to the nonpartisan policy of the League of Women Voters U.S., Wisconsin, and St Croix Valley, you will find attached with this newsletter the Political (Nonpartisan) Policy of the LWV SCV. As league members and particularly those in leadership, please continue to make decisions and participate in activities that uphold the ideals of the LWV as we work to educate, engage, and empower voters in our mission to protect democracy.

Thank you for your service.



Voter Education Volunteer Opportunity

We have an opportunity to share voter education materials with our *Osceola Spanish speaking community*.

Kim Vlcek, a member of LWV Greater Chippewa Valley asked if we could set up a table at a health fair in Osceola on

Saturday, April 27

at the West Immanuel Lutheran Church from
10:00 to 1:00.

This is a great opportunity to share voter education materials in the Osceola community. There are still volunteer opportunities for the 11:00 and 12:00 time slots available. Please let Kathy Streitz know if you can help.

I hope to see many LWV SCV members there.

Thanks

Member Services Report:

Thank you to our members who have renewed their LWV memberships!!

I encourage all of us to call a friend, a new member, or an existing member and invite her or him to attend the New Richmond Parade on Sun. March 17, the April 27 event in Osceola, and our annual meeting on April 28 in Amery. I can take four in my car to all of these events!

Happy Spring!

*Kathy Streitz
Irene Bugge*

Onward!

VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages active and informed participation in government. The League does not support or oppose candidates for office at any level of government.

The League does take action on public policy issues after substantive consideration. As a representative of the League, it is essential to be informed and versed in these policy issues. Please consult current positions for LWV-WI: <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/positions>

Through education and advocacy, we look to expand the participation of citizens in government. To create a more perfect democracy, we are committed to including all persons in our outreach.

Responsibilities of a LWV Volunteer:

We assist any eligible voter regardless of that voter's party affiliation, candidate preference, or policy positions.

- We **don't ask** individuals about their party affiliations or candidate preferences.

We maintain a nonpartisan stance in all interactions with the public. There is no display of partisan material in clothing, buttons, or decals on laptops. There is no discussion of candidates or campaigns in a partisan manner.

- We respect every person and protect the privacy of personal information. Photographs or videos are allowed only with permission.

Thank you for your service!

Main Street Voices Presents:

Earth Day Student Environmental Panel

Saturday, April 6, 2024

Science students from area schools (Unity, St. Croix Falls, and Osceola) will discuss how young people view today's environment and how it might affect and impact their futures.

Moderated by **Brian Collins**, science teacher at Unity High School and 2024 Wisconsin State Teacher of the Year, national representative.

Taylor's Falls Community Center
312 W. Government St., Taylor's Falls, MN

FREE of charge - RSVPs are required as space is limited.

Sign up today at www.scUUF.org



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League of Women Voters St Croix Valley

Organized by Volunteers of St. Croix Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (SCUUF). Attendees are encouraged to bring donations for local food pantries.

Why Vote No? (answer to Amendment question)

From the LWV-Wisconsin website:

✗ VOTE NO Q1: For our elections to run smoothly, election workers need to be able to do their jobs safely and securely. Limiting election funding deprives them from needed resources to safeguard our elections and ensure all Wisconsinites have equal opportunity to exercise their freedom to vote. We support fully-funded elections and that's why we're voting NO in April. #VoteNoWisconsin #FundOurElections

✗ VOTE NO Q2: Elections are a lot of work. Clerks rely on a whole host of outside experts, volunteers, and community members to make sure our elections are run smoothly and the results are accurate. A handful of politicians want to make the jobs of our election heroes even harder. 👎 That's why we're voting no this April! #VoteNoWisconsin

Let's Vote Story Time Kit

☆☆☆☆☆ (0 ratings) ☆☆☆☆☆ Rate this ▾



Play and practice voting with young kids!

Do you know a kindergarten teacher, a daycare provider, or a librarian who may benefit from our complete Storytime Kit on voting? The LWVSCV has this available for your use. Or you can borrow this self-contained kit from the MORE catalog system at your local library.

Opportunities to Help with April Elections

BE A POLL WORKER: Polling locations are in need of poll workers for this year's election cycle. Poll workers check in voters, help people register to vote, check photo IDs, and process absentee ballots. Check with your local clerk.

BE A POLL OBSERVER: Help the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin monitor Wisconsin's elections. They are seeking volunteers to be trained as Election Observers and placed in polling places in specific areas around the state. The League will provide your training.

Please click on the following link to register

<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Become-PollWorker>

Voter Services (Patty & Rita) Visit Hudson DMV

Voter Services knows of leagues in WI that provide MyVote assistance to DMV clients. Each DMV Service Center in WI has a dedicated MyVote kiosk. In our three-county area, only Hudson operates with daily hours. The centers in Amery (Polk) and Siren (Burnett) operate two days per week each.

What an opportunity to assist with voter registration! We developed a plan and tested it out.

The first visit to Hudson DMV was to introduce ourselves/LWVSCV to DOT Supervisor Lisa Lee. Our plan was to *respectfully* inhabit their space and offer to assist anyone wanting to use the MyVote kiosk. Lisa was supportive and welcoming of our proposal.

On a second visit, Lisa had moved the MyVote kiosk from a dead-end, dusty corner to front and center of the lobby. The move accommodated us, taking up space, but it also made the kiosk more visible and accessible. She was thrilled with the arrangement, and we were delighted with the new location.

Our excitement tapered after the initial pilot of the program. After two hours, forty or so people had passed through the DMV. We encouraged them to stop at

the kiosk when they finished their DMV business. Many were happy to chat. Two stopped to check out the kiosk. They were registered voters but interested in the MyVote site.

This experience was pleasant but not the best use of time and energy. We will revisit this idea closer to the fall election. In the meantime, we continue to look for avenues that direct LWV SCV members' energy to register and inform our fellow citizens with the best use of time and effort.



High School Outreach

Some of our members are working to build relationships with high school staff to offer LWV SCV assistance with registering 18-year-olds. The process can be slow and uneven, but adopting a tortoise pace mindset has been helpful.

A 'foot in the door' approach is offering bookmarks like these that can easily be dropped off at a featured high school. The bookmark plays off the school's mascot on one side and on the back of the bookmark is easy access information for voter

registration.

Some League members show support for their community school and the League by 'adopting' a school. What this involves is donating the funds for the bookmarks and then taking the bookmarks to the local school.

Interested in adopting your local school? Contact Patty or Rita for more information.

Watch for more news about this and other outreach programs in the next few months. Spreading the word of our league's mission and work is ever-expanding.



St. Patrick's Day Parade March 17, 2024

Join in the shenanigans to let people know who we are and what we stand for.

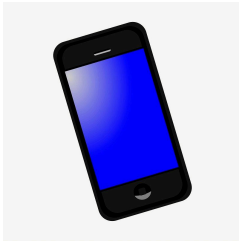
Parade line-up at 3PM
on the corner of

- S. Knowles Ave. W. 3rd St.
New Richmond

It's a short parade and big on spectators.

Contact Patty 651-271-9942 (Photo from 2023 St Patrick's Day Parade)

Like Share Amplify!



Do you want to make a BIG impact in a short amount of time?

Like, share and amplify the social media platforms of both the LWVWI and the LWVSCV.

The League of Women Voters St. Croix Valley is on Facebook and Instagram.

All the posting to our site is vetted and supported by the LWV to support the mission, the policy positions, and whatever is currently happening in our world that directly impacts all of us as league members and as defenders of democracy.

It is EASY.

It is trustworthy AND it is a very direct way to use YOUR voice in a non threatening way to state what you believe and issues you support.

The LWV US and LWV WI are strongly urging our local leagues to amp up our social media presence. It is a proven way of expanding our reach and our influence.

JUMP in! Like, share, amplify.

Thank you! Beth Wood/communication committee social media.

**“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



Signs

Katrina Larsen is in charge of distributing yard signs before each election. We have “Vote”, “Vota/Vote”, “Vote” in Ojibwe “Vote Tuesday”, “Vote from Home” “Thank You election workers” with dates assigned to help you know when to place them out.

Contact **Katrina** at **715-338-6820** if you have any questions.

Sunday, March 17:	St Patrick’s Day Parade New Richmond 3PM
Tuesday, March 19 :	LWV SCV Board Meeting (zoom)
Tuesday, March 26:	Take down <i>Vote From Home</i> yard sign
Wednesday, March 27:	Put up <i>Vote Tuesday</i> yard sign
Tuesday, April 2:	Spring and Presidential Preference Election
Wednesday, April 3:	Take down <i>Vote Tuesday</i> yard sign
Wednesday, April 3:	Put up <i>Thank Election Workers</i> yard sign
Saturday, April 6:	Earth Day Student Panel on the Environment
Wednesday, April 10:	Take down <i>Thank Election Workers</i> yard sign
Saturday, April 27:	Health Fair – Osceola
Sunday, April 28:	<i>LWVSCV Annual Meeting, 2:00 - 5:00, Amery</i>
<u>SAVE THE DATE!</u>	
Friday/Saturday,	LWWI Annual Meeting (Green Bay) May 31- June 1
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

Contact Information:

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

Member Services

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

Kathy Streit

kfstreitz@gmail.com

Irene Bugge (interim)

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

Communications & Media

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



Kris Surbaugh:



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!

The success of League events is dependent on member participation. The easiest way to participate is to share information on social media. Those of us who've grown up in rural areas know that the 'grape-vine' is still the fastest way to get the word out. It's as simple as that!

 **Pam Miller Girtz**
The League of Women Voters has had two candidate forums already. One in St. Croix County, one in Polk county. This evening we are in Burnett County from 5:30-7:30. Please join this nonpartisan group. They are also going to high schools and registering... [See more](#)
1d [Like](#) [Reply](#) Edited 

 **Glen Nelson**
The LWV forum held for Polk County Supervisor Candidates was very good. Good to hear the differing viewpoints, talents, and perspectives.
1d [Like](#) [Reply](#)  2

 **Pam Miller Girtz**
Glen Nelson Glad to hear that! We haven't done this for years due to COVID. Burnett County audience was not very large but some showed up. It's so hard to advertise events. Thanks
1d [Like](#) [Reply](#) 