



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

April 15, 2024

Annual Meeting

LWV St. Croix Valley

Keynote: Civics 101 - Cathy Leaf



Sunday, April 28, 2024

2:00pm to 5:00pm

Amery Community Center

608 Harriman Ave. S.

Amery, WI



RSVP: irenebugge@gmail.com





(left to right) Brian Collins (moderator and science teacher at Unity HS), Mara Christensen and Morgan Gjovic (Osceola HS), Lyric Benjamin (Unity HS), John Bateman and Oliver Krzystofiak (St. Croix Falls HS), Alex Erickson (Unity HS).

Successful Student Panel on the Environment Reaches Multigenerational Audience

LWVSCV was a proud sponsor of the April 6 Earth Day Panel on the Environment in Taylors Falls.

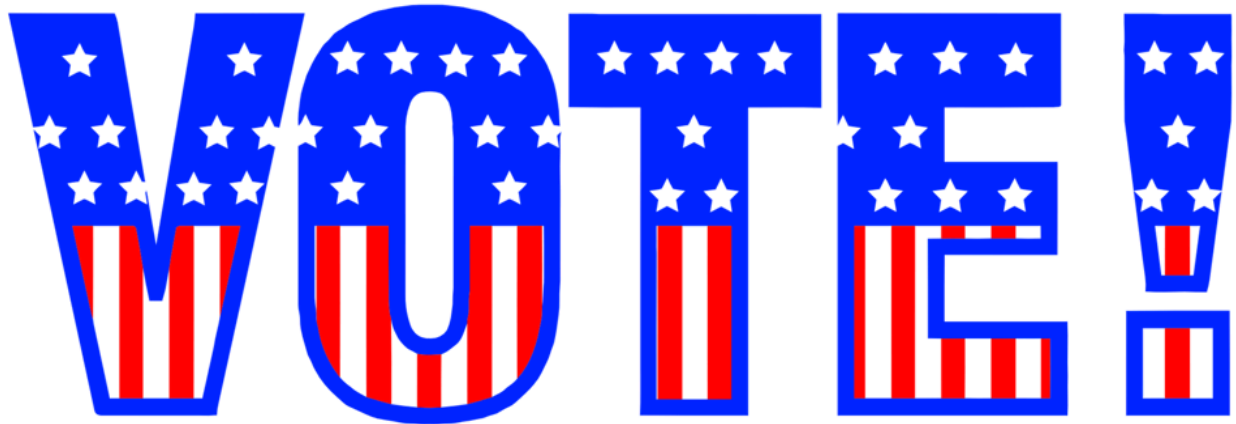
Event organizer, Gail Shore, sent the following thank you to the League:

This past Saturday's *Main Street Voices* event with area students was truly an amazing and exceptional discussion about topics of importance to all ages! The Earth Day event brought together science students from multiple area school districts to discuss the earth environment and how it might affect and impact our futures.

The first-of-its-kind district event featured students from Unity, St. Croix Falls and Osceola high schools, and was moderated by Brian Collins, 2024 Wisconsin State Teacher of the Year, national representative. The students spoke to a multi-generational audience about environmental topics that included climate change, recycling, new technologies and economic impact. I have received so many phone calls, emails, and texts expressing how impressed and inspired they were by the panelists.

On behalf of all of us at Main Street Voices, thanks for supporting our community-building initiative that uniquely combines both first-rate entertainment and inspiring thought leaders.

League members attending this event included: Karen Magnuson, Patty Van Nevel, Kay Brooks, Nanette DelMonaco, Carolyn Saunders, Robin Maercklein, Beth Wood Kathy Streit and Irene Bugge. League materials were displayed and all panel participants were given bound copies of the US Constitution, pens, and bookmarks with Voter Registration information from the League.



Notes on Voter Services Zoom meeting on April 4th

Signs were out in a variety of places including yards, along roads, libraries, churches, voting places, etc. for the April 2 election. Thanks to those who braved the snow to get them out.

We ordered and distributed a second group of VOTE signs in the *Ojibwe language* this year. Remember to place yard signs away from candidate signs.

If your signs are a little beat up, you have other places that you would like to place signs, or you need different signs, let me know.

katrina_larsen@yahoo.com

Options are:

VOTE TUESDAY

VOTE FROM HOME

VOTE in Ojibwe

VOTE/VOTA in Spanish

THANK ELECTION WORKERS

New stakes/stands to replace broken or damaged stakes/stands. There was a short discussion on getting a better “Thank a Poll Worker” yard sign.

Kathy Streitz is in the process of setting up postcard campaigns in July and October. Voter Services will join up with Member Services to get this project up and running. We will use this to help get new members together and meet each other.

Kay Brooks is starting to organize Farmer’s Markets. If you hosted a table last summer we are hoping you’ll do it again. Feel free to ask another member to join you. The setup will be the same as before. More details about this in May. Contact Kay kaybrooks48@gmail.com for more information.

Kathy Streitz wants everyone to know that there is going to be an

**Hispanic Health Fair
on Saturday 27,
from 10 AM - 1PM
at West Immanuel Lutheran Church
in Osceola, WI.**

This is a great opportunity to provide voter registration materials to Spanish speaking voters in our League. We need 3 or 4 more volunteers to help with this event. Spanish speakers would be great! Please call Kathy Streitz (612-916-8856) for more information.

We are working our way into more high schools to Get Out The Vote for our youth. So far the visits to high schools have been fun, interesting and engaging. We still have schools that need two or more volunteers. Volunteers will be prepped and ready when the time comes.

GOOD NEWS!

A recent report from NonProfit Vote, an organization that provides non-partisan resources to help engage voter participation, shows how effective the work of LWV is/can be.

... the report reveals that voters engaged by nonprofits saw a 10 percentage point boost in voter turnout compared to their counterparts in the same communities. And that effect is further amplified in historically marginalized groups, with young voters, low-income voters, and people of color experiencing even higher turnout gains.

... this report underscores the unmatched ability of America's nonprofits to foster equitable and sustainable voter participation in communities from coast to coast.

The 2024 Nonprofit Power Report *shines a light on the pivotal role that trusted local nonprofits play in building a more inclusive democracy through nonpartisan voter engagement in historically underrepresented communities throughout the United States.*

As your plans for the summer months ramp up, please consider spending time helping with LWV SCV events to GOTV (Get Out The Vote). There will be parades and Farmers Markets, festivals and fairs. VS wants to hear from you about events in your neighborhood that we could come to and spread the good work of LWV.



More Good News - Municipal Clerks!

In addition to issuing licenses, maintaining financial records and ensuring the transparency of business conducted in their municipalities, municipal clerks are charged with executing elections.

In the weeks before an election much work is dedicated to register voters and handle absentee ballots. Municipal clerks train poll workers and set up poll stations for accessibility. On election day, the efforts

made by municipal clerks to welcome every voter with sensitivity and dignity are on display.

Are you impressed by what you've seen? You're invited to nominate your clerk for recognition by the WI Disability Vote Coalition. An online short form ([here](#)) can be used to recognize the dedicated work of your clerk to voter experience.

Celebrating 55th Annual Municipal Clerk Appreciation Week–May 5–11



TIME FOR FARMERS' MARKETS!

Believe it or not, Farmers' Markets will be starting up in another month or so. We are researching just which ones we can visit to distribute information on voting. Five have already given us permission and we are waiting to hear from about 10 more. Several members are helping to make this happen. A SHOUT OUT to

them! Without a coordinated effort, it wouldn't happen.

The next step is to find members who are willing to spin the wheel with market shoppers, hand out prizes, and offer voter information. If we find a market close to you, you will receive an email asking you to sign up. You will sit with another member and one of you will have had previous experience. It's easy and fun, plus a chance to get to know other members better (and pick up some great produce).

This is our chance to do what we joined the League to do---educate the public about voting and encourage them to participate in elections. We are asking for your help. The more we can get exposure, the more impact we will make.

Contact Kay Brooks

715-381-8879

kaybrooks48@gmail.com



LWV St Croix Valley Proposes Changes!

Members will be asked to vote on changes to our Bylaws at the Annual Meeting, April 28, 2024. Below is the rationale for these changes from our Executive Team. Please read through these and be prepared to vote at the Annual Meeting.

~~~Our bylaws currently state that bylaw changes can only be made at Annual Meetings.

- We ask that our membership consider allowing changes to the bylaws to be made at other meetings of the general membership -- general, special, and annual meetings.*
- We have learned that most other League chapters in WI allow bylaws changes to be made at meetings besides the annual meeting.*
- In order to make such changes, leadership still needs to send out the proposed changes 30 days in advance of a general, special or annual meeting.*
- Early in 2025, LWVUS will make some changes in how dues are collected. These changes will require that our bylaws be changed. We would like to have the option of making these changes at a general or special meeting and not be limited to the **one time per year annual meeting.***

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Irene Bugge, Beth Wood, Kris Surbaugh

Listed below is Article XI from LWVSCV current bylaws:

Article XI

Amendments and Suspension

Section 1. Amendments.

These bylaws may be amended by a two thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting providing the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

Section 2. Suspension.

Parts of Articles IV through IX of these bylaws may be suspended, if necessary, for up to one year by a two thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting if notice of intention to do so has been submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

Highlighted below are the proposed changes.

Section 1. Amendments.

These bylaws may be amended by a two thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at an annual, regular or special meeting, providing the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

Section 2. Suspension.

Parts of Articles IV through IX of these bylaws may be suspended, if necessary, for up to one year by a two thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at an annual, regular or special meeting. if notice of intention to do so has been submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

Did you know that you can access our Bylaws along with other informational documents on our website?

<https://lwwstcroixvalley.org> and click on our Join Us>About Us> tab.

Important Dates:

Saturday, April 20 Fair Maps Day (see article below)

Saturday, April 27: Health Fair – Osceola

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

SAVE THE DATE!

May 31–June 1 LWVWI Annual Meeting (Green Bay Friday/Saturday)

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



**FAIR MAPS 2024
ACTIVIST STRATEGIC
PLANNING DAY**

April 20, 2024

Help shape state & regional strategies:

- Reconstituting Fair Maps Teams
- Educating voters about new maps in November election
- Gathering input for nonpartisan redistricting legislation after November

***Join activists from across
Wisconsin to participate in a
strategic planning day for
fair maps***

Members of the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition want to extend an invitation for YOU to join us planning and mobilizing for Fair Maps through 2024 and beyond.

The Fair Maps Coalition cannot achieve our goal of independent, nonpartisan redistricting in Wisconsin without your support. We need your voice to help us plan and implement our shared strategy to finally secure a representative and accountable government for all in Wisconsin this November and for decades to come.

REGISTER HERE: https://bit.ly/FMC_StrategyPlanning2024

Contact Information for committees:

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 Streitz

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

Vicki Harmon

vickiharmon@gmail.com

Beth Wood bwood@frontiernet.net

Communications & Media

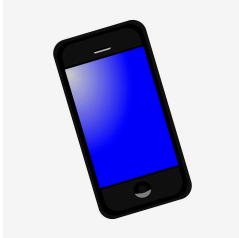
- Website & Social Media
- Newsletter
- Press Releases & Research Writing

Kris Surbaugh:

aksurbaugh@gmail.com

The League of Women Voters St Croix Valley is successful because of member volunteerism. Every 'little action' helps!

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.



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!

Contact information for our newest LWV St Croix Valley members:

LWVSCV New Members 4/8/24

County	Town	First Name	Last Name	Email Address
Eau Claire	Eau Claire	Nancy	Orth	orthnancy@gmail.com
St. Croix	Baldwin	Karen	Magnuson	kdmagnuson066@gmail.com
St. Croix	Hudson	Violet	Walter	hudwis@gmail.com
St. Croix	Hudson	Celeste	Koeberl	koeberl@mac.com
St. Croix	Hudson	Nancy	Gilland	ntgilland@gmail.com
St. Croix	Star Prairie	Sue	Irle	skirle@hotmail.com