



OUR MISSION: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy



May 1, 2024

Great Turnout for 2024 Annual Meeting

Thank you to all who were able to attend our Annual Meeting. For those of you who were unable to attend the following is an edited excerpt from my opening comments. It is a privilege to be your co-President. Thank you. (Beth Wood)

Welcome to the 2024 LWVSCV Annual Meeting – thank you for being here. We want this afternoon to be welcoming, enjoyable and efficient. So happy to see so many new members here today.

We want to help you find your place in the league. Our motto is Forward Together, and all are welcome.

You will notice a new look to some of our graphics. Leaning into our responsibility as a *nonpartisan nonprofit* we have embraced the Sunflower. Sunflowers and the Suffrage movement have been linked as early as 1867 in Kansas as the first attempt at full suffrage legislation was put to a vote. The bill did not pass, but the Sunflower image became a symbol of the cause and was chosen in 1890 by the National American Woman Suffrage Association to be used as their emblem.

The National and State leagues are providing us with very specific directives so that we can collectively optimize the time of our volunteers and maximize our readiness for the upcoming election cycle.

Many leagues are suspending their social events and putting all of their time and energy into projects that get out the vote and educate voters. Our intention is to find the happy medium, and our projects for the coming seven months will reflect that.

We are being reminded by the LWV that “*optics matter*”. We must commit to always looking through the lens of DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) and *nonpartisanship* as we gather and as we conduct ourselves publically. Especially those of us in leadership must be “beyond reproach”. We are league members because we share a passion for policy positions, and we are committed to supporting free and fair elections. The responsibility falls on all of us to ensure that our communities have no reason to question the *nonpartisan position* of our organization.

Our messaging and our image must be protected and our integrity without question.

Let’s enjoy our shared purpose by getting to know one another, to have fun when we gather and share the great feeling of being engaged in protecting our Democracy. Let’s each commit to doing *one more thing* to move our league forward, together.

I would like to thank all of you that have stepped forward to serve in leadership, have volunteered to lead projects, volunteer at events, coordinate forums, host coffees, set up voter registration tables, made calls, on and on - all of the work needed to advance the mission of the league, which is:

***Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy
Forward Together***



Co-presidents, Beth Wood and Irene Bugge, welcomed members and guests to the 9th Annual Meeting of League of Women Voters St Croix Valley. After being greeted by Co-president Beth Wood, new member, Cathy Leaf, entertained and informed members with a quiz

and talk entitled “Civics 101”.

Prizes were awarded to the most Civics savvy members.

After the presentation, a brief break gave members time to stretch their legs, enjoy some delicious food, and visit with members old and new.



After our luncheon break, Irene Bugge called the business portion of our annual meeting to order. Order of business was fulfilled and members passed the amendment to our chapter’s bylaws unanimously.

Details of meeting minutes can be accessed on our website once they have been approved by the Board.

After the business portion was adjourned, members were invited to participate in our League’s version of ‘speed dating’. Members circulated around the room, learning more about different projects that are currently underway. Members were encouraged to find out more about projects that they may be interested in supporting.

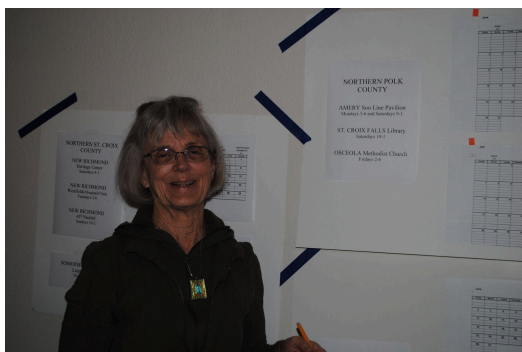




Some of the projects highlighted:



Let's Vote Storytime kit, Farmer's Markets, High School Liason, and Reader's Theater.



FARMERS' MARKETS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

~Kay Brooks (715-381-8879)

You are invited to help to give our League exposure at multiple Farmers' Markets in June and July. We have four lined up in St. Croix County and four in Polk County. Even

if you could volunteer for one shift, it would be appreciated—and more would be great! We have had amazing acceptance from 10 markets. Now we need volunteers. How many markets we attend depends on how many people sign up. You have received an email with fill-in calendars—there are also links below— or you can also contact Kay Brooks at kaybrooks48@gmail.com. Several members have already signed up. Many thanks to them!

You and a partner of your choice (or we can find you one) can sign up for shifts in the following locations:

ST. CROIX COUNTY

Hudson	Faith Community Church	Saturday mornings 8-12
River Falls	Rush River Brewery	Thursday evenings 5-8

Sign up with this link for June: <https://tinyurl.com/fmstcrxjuneso>

Sign up with this link for July: <https://tinyurl.com/fmstcrjulyso>

New Richmond	Heritage Center	Saturdays 8-1
	45th Parallel	Sunday 10-2
	Westfields Hospital/Clinic	Tuesdays 2-6
Somerset	Apple River Liquor Store	Thursdays 2-6

Sign up with this link for June: <https://tinyurl.com/fmstcrxnorthjune>

Sign up with this link for July: <https://tinyurl.com/fmstcrxjuly>

POLK COUNTY (also where BURNETT CO. members can help)

Amery	Soo Line Pavilion	Mondays 3-6, Saturdays 9-12
Osceola	United Methodist Church	Fridays 2-6
St. Croix Falls 10-1	library	Saturdays

Sign up with this link for June: <https://tinyurl.com/fmjunepolkco>

Sign up with this link for July: <https://tinyurl.com/fmpolkcojuly>

TENTATIVE market Balsam Lake	Catholic Church	Fridays (time?) TBA
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FARMERS' MARKET COFFEE/DEMO SESSIONS

Stay tuned for a couple of coffees towards the end of May—one in Polk County and the other in St. Croix County. Volunteers for the Farmers' Markets will have a chance to get together while practicing using the spinning wheel to interact with the public. It will also provide a chance to talk about “what ifs” and ask questions. Look for details in the next newsletter. (*I am open to suggestions as to where I host. We need a place to set up the demonstration—possibly at a park.)

I will also find a day and time for volunteers who can't make it to a coffee to meet via Zoom. You will receive information for that as well.

New Members Meet!



**From Members
Services~
Kathy Streitz**

**We had a
new member
coffee on
Wednesday,
April 17 at
Robert's Cafe.**

From left to right: Kathy Streitz, Judy Green, Sue Irl from Star Prairie, Celeste Koeberl from Hudson, Janet Ballis Lestock, and Kay Brooks.

Robert's Cafe (in Roberts, WI) was a great setting. We met in their perfect side room. If you notice the paintings adorning the walls, they are League member Wendy Lacska's!

Thank you Tammy for the great food and service!

Thank you to Celeste who shared her background of going to law school and other educational endeavors as well as her current project of organizing awareness regarding a possible dredging project in Hudson's Lake Mallalieu.

Sue Irle shared her nursing background and her passion for communicating facts in current events.

*If you are interested in working with members services
contact Kathy Streitz at kfstreitz@gmail.com*



Great turn-out for Annual Meeting 2024 (photo by Robin Maercklein)

New Membership Model – How it will Affect our League

At the end of this year, LWVUS will be rolling out a new membership system, called [ChapterSpot](#). We will be required to make changes to our Bylaws to reflect the new Membership model. This change is at the directive of LWVUS and LWVWI.

All Leagues across the County at both the local and State levels will make this transition together, and instead of dues collection at the local level, dues will be collected at the National level, LWVUS will retain 33% of dues, State will receive 47% and the local League will receive 20%. New members will be able to join and existing members will renew online through a link on our website– or mail in your paperwork. Both credit cards and checks will be accepted.

Why is the League changing its membership structure?

- 1) To implement a multi-stage, multi-year inclusive process that increases and diversifies League membership and strengthens League operations across the nation to deliver on our mission work and build league power.
- 2) To provide consistent and aligned membership system across all levels of the League that will eliminate financial barriers to participation, create an equitable division of dues between levels of the League, and overall, simplify the mechanics of joining the League.

Donations

For the LWVSCV to retain 100% of your donations, we will ask our members to donate directly to our League via our website “Donate” button. This means that donations would be *managed separately* from when you join or renew your membership. If, in the past, you have rounded up your membership with the intention of the extra money going to the LWV SCV you need to know that LWVSCV will not receive that extra money. All monies other than the membership fee need to be passed through our “Donate” button or made separately to our league via a check NOT through your membership dues.

Summary

What will change?

- Joining or renewing a LWVSCV membership
- Donations to LWVSCV during joining or renewing

When will it change?

- The ChapterSpot system will be implemented late 2024 or early 2025

How does this affect me?

- Nothing changes right now and we will continue our current process.
- The LWVSCV website WILL NOT change, we keep our current website.

Questions? WE ALL DO! We will continue to share the information from LWVUS as we

receive it. Watch the LWVSCV newsletter for updates.

WIVONIAN INTERFAITH VOTER ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN
BRIDGING PATHS FOR A STRONGER DEMOCRACY

WIVEC Presents ...

MOVIE

Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight to Vote

www.bravenewfilms.org/suppressed

**On May 2, 2024
7pm with Discussion
to follow**

May 2 Documentary Register Here:
<https://bit.ly/3VKApP3>

May 7 Call to Action Here:
<https://bit.ly/4aFyrUp>

WIVEC Webpage:
interfaithvotewi.org

May 2 QR Code May 7 QR Code

**WIVEC
and
All Voting is Local Webinar**

**"Suppressed and Sabotaged"
Documentary
Thursday, May 2 from
6:30-8:00pm, Online**

WIVEC Webinar - WIVEC will present the documentary "Suppressed and Sabotaged" on May 2.

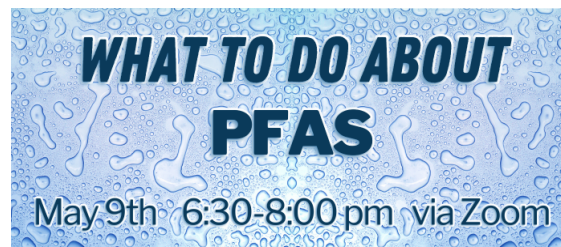
"Suppressed and Sabotaged" is a powerful documentary about the growing threat of voter suppression and election sabotage to our nation's upcoming elections. In 2021, 19 states passed 34 new voter laws following the Big Lie of the 2020 election.

The film focuses on this recent wave of voter suppression and subversion laws

being enacted in states, and how the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial race between Stacey Abrams and Brian Kemp provides a case study for understanding today's voter suppression laws across the country.

Join **WIVEC (Wisconsin InterFaith Voter Engagement Campaign)** and experts from **All Voting is Local-WI** as we watch the 45 minute documentary and then discuss the landscape of voter protection right here in Wisconsin. Please copy the link below to register.

<https://weebly.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e6c45ccf11f7e73799b5064d2&id=81bd0e1f08&e=8ddc31877f>



PFAS Webinar Registration

Back in March, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin's held Part 1 of its series on contamination by PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in Wisconsin. That webinar engaged speakers to explain where these ubiquitous contaminants come from, what it can do inside the human body, and the personal protections we can all take to limit our exposures.

Now in Part 2, **What To Do About PFAS on May 9th at 6:30 pm**, we will address the bigger picture of what we can do about PFAS. Topics will include:

- Lived experiences with PFAS contamination of soil and water
- Limitations and costs of current remediation options
- Innovative remediation methods under investigation
- Political controversies and legislative proposals

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUof-itqj4sG9LF3zKo7OvVVM4oABGkWEN5#/registration>



Municipal Clerk Appreciation Week

May 5 to 11, 2024

From Voters Services

Join us in honoring the invaluable contributions of municipal clerks during Municipal Clerk Appreciation Week from May 5 to 11, 2024. Municipal clerks are the unsung heroes of local government, working tirelessly behind the scenes to uphold transparency, efficiency, and accessibility in our community. From managing elections to maintaining official records, their dedication and expertise are essential to the smooth functioning of our city.

Throughout this week, we invite you to join us in recognizing and celebrating the hard work and commitment of our municipal clerks. Take a moment to express your gratitude for their tireless efforts in ensuring that our government operates effectively and serves the needs of all residents.

Voter Services will send an ecard to all the municipal clerks in our three counties.

You can find your clerk's contact information at:

<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/My-Municipal-Clerk>.

And to make recognizing your clerk easy, [here's a sample message you can send](#).

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday/Saturday, LWVWI 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



Elected Board and Chairs for 2024-2025

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

Communications & Media

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

Kris Surbaugh: aksurbaugh@gmail.com



Use this handy QR code to access our web page for more information.

