



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

September 1, 2024

**From LWV SCV Executive Team:**

As we head into the important pre-election months of Sept., Oct., and Nov., we would like to first thank our incredible LWV SCV leadership team. Our Board and Committee leaders are committed to the mission of the LWV which is to educate, empower, and engage voters.

***There is a place for YOU to do something!***

We encourage you to contact anyone on the leadership list included in this newsletter and engage in the activities of your LWV SCV. Your time and talents will be welcome. We are an inclusive, friendly, fun group, and we get things done. As we recently heard someone say "don't wait for a personal phone call to activate, get in the game. Do something!" This newsletter highlights many ways and opportunities to show up.

The leadership of your league is here for you to answer questions, help you find a suitable activity, and to encourage you to explore how your membership in the LWV SCV can be of value to you, to the league, and to your community.

**Forward together!**

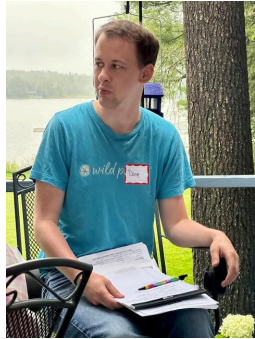


## ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

On August 27, Kathy and Greg Palmquist hosted our LWV SCV summer picnic at their beautiful home on Wood Lake in Burnett Co. Twenty-seven members attended

the gathering which was focused on self care and wellbeing.

After a conversational social hour, we experienced a vocal exercise to ‘sync up our hearts’ by using the recorded song *Women Rise* written by Barbara McAfee. Then member Edna Early provided a compelling presentation of tips for wellness and a demonstration of chair movement focusing on breathing and stretching.



Danny Akenson from the grassroots organization GROWW shared lessons they have learned to avoid volunteer burnout and maintain sustainability as they continue to work toward a more just and equitable world. We received an update on the Final Five project. Our league appreciates our collaborations with GROWW and looks forward to a continued relationship. We had a delicious meal of grilled burgers and brats along with an array of potluck contributions. It was a lovely evening of fellowship, learning and re-energizing.



**PURPOSE:** Enjoying fellowship while writing postcards to encourage voting  
**HOSTESSES:** Nanette Del Monaco and Kay Brooks  
**LOCATION:** St Croix Falls Library  
230 S Washington St  
St Croix Falls  
**DATE:** Monday, September 9  
**TIME:** 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
*Guests and latecomers are welcome*

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF ST. CROIX VALLEY

## Time is a-wasting!!

Many of you are looking for a way to help ‘get out the vote’.

Join us at the **St Croix Falls Public Library** to write postcards reminding folks to vote!

**This coffee is an opportunity to our ‘Up North’ members to gather, but everyone is WELCOME! Bring a friend!**

We’ll be writing postcards to encourage people to vote. The state League has provided us with names and addresses of people to send to. We just have to write a short note of

encouragement. So, come to enjoy time together while tackling a very worthwhile project. The more, the merrier!!

RSVPs would be appreciated, but aren't necessary. We would just be better prepared. They can be sent to Kay Brooks [kaybrooks48@gmail.com](mailto:kaybrooks48@gmail.com).

Looking forward to seeing you!

Kay Brooks and Nanette Del Monaco, co-hosts

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## LWV SCV and Library Collaboration Events—

### How To Get Started:

**LWV ST. CROIX VALLEY & THE FREDERIC PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS**

## ENGAGE & EMPOWER: YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

Curious about how YOU can get involved in our local community?

Join us and like-minded people on Thursdays throughout September from 11:30am to 1pm to dive into local issues & learn more about local groups.

Lunch will be provided. Free to attend any, all, or some but please RSVP your spot by calling the library at 715-327-4979 as space and food are limited.

- SEPT 5 ILLUMINATING LOCAL CHALLENGES**  
A listening session with GROWW (Grass Roots Organizing of Western Wisconsin) will dive into the hyperlocal concerns of the residents in our own community.
- SEPT 12 ELECTION INTEGRITY**  
A question & answer session with local village and town clerks about the election process in our municipalities.
- SEPT 19 MISINFORMATION & DISINFORMATION**  
Our Polk County Clerk will be here to take us through the current landscape of misinformation and disinformation on a county level.
- SEPT 25 LOCAL IMPACTS**  
Representatives from local groups will be here to share about their missions and how volunteers can help.

Kris Surbaugh, League member, reached out to the Frederic Public Library –to see if they would be interested in supporting some *get out the vote* programming for September.

Frederic Public Library Director, Amanda Blackmon, was excited with the idea and through collaboration with both the League and GROWW<sup>1</sup>, created programming that will fit with both the needs of the community and LWV SCV's outreach goals.

Check out these Lunch and Learn sessions! LWV members are encouraged to attend any of these events to show support for our efforts to *educate, engage, and empower* local residents.

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<sup>1</sup> Grassroots Organizers of Western Wisconsin

Both Kris and Amanda hope to help build community and encourage folks to get involved in being part of the solution. According to GROWW representative Danny Akenson, folks who engage in projects which interest them are more likely to be able to maintain creative energy and avoid burnout. Statistics tell us that folks who support community events experience more satisfaction with life and communities with engaged members thrive!

*As a League member, remember that simply by showing up you can support positive change. Please consider joining one of the events listed at the Frederic Public Library!*

*Want to learn more? Curious about programming or how to engage your local library?*

*Contact Kris Surbaugh ([aksurbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:aksurbaugh@gmail.com) or 715-566-1186 via text)*

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As we approach the end of summer, I find myself amazed and thankful for the many League volunteers who “manned” multiple farmers' markets this summer. We had 20+ members step up to help!

With a couple of markets yet to happen, we will have connected with over 550 people!!

- We have passed out information as to how to register to vote and check registrations.
- Our information has also impacted the successful efforts to create Fair Maps and to vote “no” for the constitutional amendments on the primary ballot.
- We are now making people aware of how to handle disinformation,
- as well as how to access VOTE 411, which offers candidate information for the November 5 election.

**And not to forget: We are creating an interest in lots of kids for being a voter someday in future elections as they spin our wheel and answer questions. Meanwhile their parents have a chance to ask us questions about voting and elections.**

This is only the beginning. Let's use our combined experience to reach high school and college students and more this fall as we approach the General Election. Stay tuned to opportunities!

Kay Brooks

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## Save the Date

**October 8, 2024, 6:00 pm**

**Virtual Event on**

**Election Integrity with Meagan Wolfe**

**With Watch Parties at Local Libraries**

Meagan Wolfe, the Administrator of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, has graciously agreed to be our **keynote speaker** for National Voter Education Week 2024!

LWV SCV and the Amery Public Library will be co-hosting this *virtual event* on

Tuesday, October 8 at 6:00 pm.

Amery Library will also host a Watch Party at their facility for the community.

League members are currently reaching out to their local libraries (there are 22 in our three-county area) to explore their interest in celebrating National Voter Education Week by hosting additional Watch Parties.

As the date gets closer, we will have more information about this event and where additional Watch Parties will be held.

If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Irene Bugge at [irenebugge@gmail.com](mailto:irenebugge@gmail.com).

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## Luck food co-op makes donation to League of Women Voters

Submitted by Kris Surbaugh

LUCK - Natural Alternative Food Co-op manager Nick Knighton presented a check for \$447.87 to Nancy Stewart of the League of Women Voters of St. Croix Valley. Co-op shoppers voluntarily "rounded up" their purchases during the months of January and February to fund the donation. The contribution made by Natural Alternative shoppers will be used to promote voter education.

The League of Women Voters of St. Croix Valley is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization that advocates for informed and active participation in government. The St. Croix Valley chapter of the LWV represents Polk, Burnett and St. Croix counties and has over 70 members. More information on LWVSCV can be found at [lwvstcroixvalley.org](http://lwvstcroixvalley.org).

The Natural Alternative Food Co-op, located in downtown Luck, is celebrating its 50th anniversary in business this year. It has an impressive collection of organic and locally produced dairy, meats, produce and gifts. The Natural Alternative Food Co-op offers merchandise from over 50 local farms and small businesses. More information on the co-op can be found at [nafoodcoop.com](http://nafoodcoop.com).



Natural Alternative Food Co-op manager Nick Knighton presents a check for \$447.87 to Nancy Stewart of the League of Women Voters of St. Croix Valley. - Photo provided

**League member, Nancy Stewart, finds a unique fundraising opportunity!**

Thanks to Nancy and the Natural Alternative Food Co-op for participating in the 'round up' program.

**There's still time to**

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

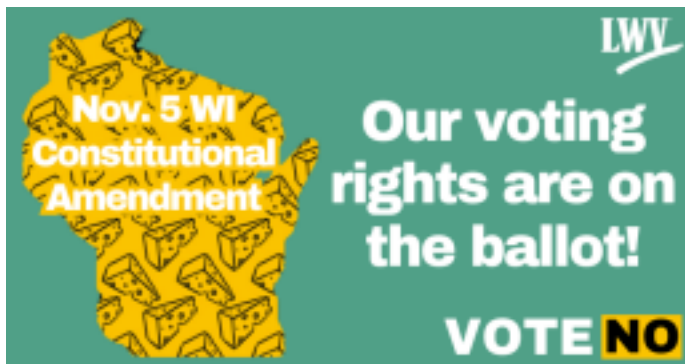
**"do something"**

Summer is coming to an end and soon we will be settling back into our routines. In a little less than 2 months we will have our election extravaganza behind us. Yet, there is still a lot of volunteer work to be done. Voter Services has just shifted efforts to our collaboration with the American Library Association. We are working to schedule libraries in our three counties to host a table of information about voting and registration.

Look over this list and make the choice to contribute some time to your favorite activity.

- Farmers Markets, festivals, outdoor venues - almost done
- Election observer
- HS, Tech schools, and colleges voter registration events (in process)
- Newsletters

- Library information table for voting materials
- Story Time activities and read aloud
- Inmate voter registration at the Polk County jail
- Post Card writing on the first Tuesday of the month (More on this from Beth) Our goal is to write and mail 500 postcards. Please call to set up other locations to write postcards.



This November, voters will have another harmful, divisive constitutional amendment on their ballot. We will show up and vote no and keep Wisconsin moving forward. Our voting rights are literally on the ballot with this amendment. The language change

from "every" to "only" is a downgrade to all of our voting rights. The language changes our constitutionally protected voting rights from a guarantee for all citizens to a limitation that could be used to erode our voting rights.



## Drop Boxes are Back!

**\*\*\*JOINT STATEMENT FROM WISCONSIN VOTING RIGHTS GROUPS\*\*\***

Wisconsin Organizations Applaud WI Supreme Court Decision to Reinstate Drop Boxes

MADISON – We, the undersigned organizations, celebrate the Wisconsin State Supreme Court's Decision to reinstate drop boxes which are essential to Wisconsin voters.

- Regular mail/online voter registration deadline: Wednesday, Oct. 16

- The last day to request an absentee ballot is October 31
- The last day to mail an absentee ballot is October 29
- Regular in-person voter registration deadline: Friday, Nov. 1
- Deadline to return an absentee ballot: Tuesday, Nov. 5
- General election: Tuesday, Nov. 5

<b>September</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Newsletter</b>
	<b>3</b>	<b>Gather at Little Piece of Mind Quilt Shop New Richmond 4PM (Pizza Party)</b>
	<b>5</b>	<b>Frederic Public Library Event</b> (collaboration with GROWW and LWVSCV) Illuminating Local Challenges (everyone welcome, bring a friend!)
	<b>9</b>	<b>Coffee with a Purpose</b> (St. Croix Falls Public Library, 1:00-3:00) GOTV postcard writing—all invited!
	<b>10</b>	<del>LWVSCV Board meeting by Zoom 4PM—cancelled</del>
	<b>12</b>	<b>Election Integrity</b> (Frederic Public Library and LWVSCV) Local Village and town clerks meet to answer questions from the public—Please attend!
	<b>15</b>	<b>Newsletter</b>
	<b>19</b>	<b>Misinformation &amp; Disinformation</b> (Frederic Public Library and LWVSCV) Polk County Clerk quest speaker
	<b>17</b>	<b>NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY</b> LWVSCV Tabling Events: North Woods Technical College Chippewa Valley Technical College University of Wisconsin-River Falls Amery Library
	<b>21</b>	<b>Heritage Days New Richmond</b>



	25	<b>Local Impacts</b> (Frederic Public Library and LWVSCV) Local community organizations fair–Please attend and bring a friend!
<b>October</b>	1	<b>Newsletter</b>
	1	Gather at Little Piece of Mind Quilt Shop New Richmond 4PM
	7-11	<b>NATIONAL VOTER EDUCATION WEEK</b>
	8	<b>How Elections Work in Wisconsin with Meagan Wolfe</b> , Administrator of the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC). Online event at 6:00 pm co-hosted by LWVSCV and Amery Public Library. Watch Parties at Amery and other libraries.
	15	<b>Newsletter</b>
	15	<b>"Uniting Americans to Depolarize America"</b> Bill Doherty, Braver Angels 7PM American Legion Post 143, St. Croix Falls LWVSCV is a sponsor of this Main Street Voices event
<b>November</b>	1	<b>Newsletter</b>
	5	<b>Gather at Little Piece of Mind Quilt Shop</b> <b>New Richmond 4PM</b> <b>ELECTION DAY!!!</b>
	15	<b>Newsletter</b>

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ST. CROIX VALLEY LEADERSHIP TEAM 2024-2025

Beth Wood – Co-President <bwood@frontiernet.net>  
Irene Bugge – Co-President <irenebugge@gmail.com>  
Kris Surbaugh – Vice-President <aksurbaugh@gmail.com>  
Evanne Hunt – Secretary <evanne.hunt@outlook.com>  
Kate Manecke – Treasurer <deleinen@icloud.com>  
Edna Early – Director (DEI) <ed5early@gmail.com>  
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