



OUR MISSION: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

December 15, 2024

Reminder to Vote at our December Meeting
Tuesday, December 17 at 5PM

Why are we voting?

Changes have been made at a State and National level that impacts how membership dues are collected. To be in compliance, our Bylaws must change to reflect this. As per our Bylaws, the general membership must 'pass' these changes in a general election. Our chapter cannot choose to opt out of this change to national collecting the dues. So a no vote won't change the outcome. The transition will still be made whether our chapter votes yes or no. If everyone in our chapter votes no, our bylaws will simply not be in compliance.

League chapters are required to vote when bylaws changes are made. This is being called an administrative clean up. Members are being asked to vote yes to the bylaws change.

How do I vote?

On Tuesday, December 17, at 5PM connect to the link below. Once you are connected simply put your vote in the chat box. (copy and paste into your browser)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89574385909?pwd=oWLKuX3HovGAbmS0su7C6tSBqRdW6m.1>

Want to learn more?

Read the article from the LWV on page 7

Or check out information on our web page: [ChapterSpot – what is it and where are we? | League of Women Voters – St. Croix Valley](#)

News from Member Services

Hello to you all! I hope your holidays are cozy and full of your favorite company! Please welcome our newest member...Priscilla Paton. Priscilla is an author, and I look forward to reading her books! Priscilla lives in Prescott!

We also have a new member in Frederic. Please welcome Marie Engdahl. Thank you Marie and Priscilla for finding us. Reach out if you have any questions about this newsletter or upcoming events. We would love to see you in person.

Please note the invitation to our highly anticipated Winter Gathering and email or text your RSVP to me. Thanks to all who have sent your RSVP.

Our most recent updated membership list is attached to this email. Reach out to those who are near! We are strongest together!

Kathy Streitz
Hudson 612-916-8856

RSVP and Mark Your Calendars for the Winter Gathering!

Barbara McAfee to be Keynote for Winter Gathering – January 12, 2025



We are thrilled that Barbara McAfee has agreed to be the keynote for our annual Winter Gathering on Sunday, January 12, 2025, 1:30 to 4:30 at the Amery Community Center.

Barbara is a voice coach, author, singer/songwriter, song leader and key-note speaker who uses music and words to inspire and connect people. She is the author of: *Full Voice: The Art and Practice of Vocal Presence*.

For those of you who don't know this St. Croix Valley force of nature, you can visit her website at www.barbaramcafee.com to learn more. Listen to her TED talk or sample some of her music.

But first, put the Winter Gathering on your calendar for the new year. Invite friends who might be interested in the League to join you. And come prepared to renew connections with our League community, learn about LWV St. Croix Valley's plans for 2025, and join together to share the uplifting power of music.

Please RSVP for this event today! Contact Kathy Streitz at [<kfstreitz@gmail.com>](mailto:kfstreitz@gmail.com)

Kathy Streitz
Hudson 612-916-8856

Spring Primary Election February 18

SPRING RACES INCLUDE:

WI Supreme Court, Court of Appeals
Judges, Circuit Court Judges,
County Board of Supervisors, State
Superintendent of Public Instruction,
City Council, School Board
& Local nonpartisan races

Do you have a Primary?

Register + Request a Ballot

 **MyVote.Wi.Gov**



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF ST. CROIX VALLEY

The League of Women Voters Wisconsin Collaborates to secure our Wisconsin water!

LWWVI (policy statement) supports water quality and quantity standards and supports managing water as a natural resource. Read the full policy statement here: [Water Quality | MyLO](#).

Below is a letter from Midwest Environmental Advocates—who partners with the League and others in the efforts to Stop Line 5 in northern Wisconsin¹.



Midwest Environmental Advocates is taking legal action to stop Enbridge Energy from moving forward with a plan to build a new 41-mile segment of its Line 5 oil pipeline in northern Wisconsin.

This morning², MEA filed a petition for a contested case hearing challenging permits and other regulatory approvals for Line 5 construction.

We filed the petition on behalf of three groups – Sierra Club, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin and 350 Wisconsin – and submitted it jointly with Clean Wisconsin.

We are taking legal action to block the permits because Enbridge has failed to show that its plans will minimize harm to the waterbodies and wetlands that will be impacted by pipeline construction.

One glaring example is the fact that Enbridge has not identified exactly which waterway crossings would require blasting through bedrock, nor have they provided basic, site-specific information about the topography, hydrology and geology of potential blasting sites. It's clear that Enbridge's construction and restoration plans consistently understate the environmental damage the project will cause and overstate the company's ability to repair the damage.

¹ To learn more about Stop Line 5 consider checking out one of these websites: Clean Wisconsin, Sierra Club, Michigan League of Conservation Voters or FLOW (For the Love of Water) and [Bad River Band challenges Wisconsin's Line 5 reroute permits | Local | apg-wi.com](#)

² December 12, 2024

Enbridge claims, for example, that its plans to clear forested wetlands will have temporary, relatively minor impacts on those wetlands, when it would actually take decades for trees and other vegetation to regrow.

The construction and continued operation of Line 5 endangers not only Wisconsin’s rivers and wetlands, but also our climate and the health of current and future generations.³

We are determined to stop this dangerous and destructive pipeline, but we can’t do it without your help.

Together, we can stop Line 5 and build a cleaner, safer and healthier future for all Wisconsinites.

December	15	Newsletter
	17	Board Meeting (Zoom) General Membership attend (Zoom) 5PM https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89574385909?pwd=oWlKux3HovGAbmSosu7C6tSBqRdw6m.1
January 2025	1	Happy New Year! Newsletter
	12	Winter Gathering at Amery Community Center (doors open at 1:30)
	15	Newsletter
	19	Snow Date for Winter Gathering
February	1	Newsletter
	14	LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS 105 YEARS AND GOING STRONG TOGETHER!
	18	Primary!
April	1	Spring Election
	27	Annual Meeting, 2:00 - 5:00. Amery Community Center

³ [Enbridge pipeline in Wisconsin spills nearly 70,000 gallons of oil](#)

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>
Barb Katt – Director (DEI) <barbkatt@hotmail.com>
Rita Kearns – Director (Voter Services) <ritakearns54@gmail.com>
Patty Van Nevel – Director (Voter Services) <pattyvannevel@gmail.com>
Kathy Streitz – Membership <kfstreitz@gmail.com>
Nancy Stewart – Budget <n.stewart@yahoo.com>
Tami Halcomb – Roster Manager <thalcomb@lwwstcroixvalley.org>

LWV-Wisconsin!

In 2024 we made a tremendous impact...

- 586 provisional voters contacted to ensure their votes were counted
- 600 young voter birthday cards mailed
- 36,018 voters reached through our phone bank
- Over 175,000 users accessed VOTE411.org for candidate information
- Over 200,000 users visited LWVWI.org for vital voter resources
- 248,969 GOTV postcards mailed
- 347,117 texts sent to voters
- 10.6 million views on Facebook and 4.5 million views on Instagram

This is just a small sample of LWVWI's work!

Every year, our work grows. From reaching more voters through direct actions like texts and postcards to expanding our digital impact, we continue to expand. Thanks to supporters like you, we're connecting with more people, providing essential voter resources, and ensuring every voice is heard. Together, we can make a difference



LWV is switching to a new member portal for all Leagues across the country. There is no action that members need to take right now, but we want to provide you with an overview of what these changes mean for you.

This year, you will still renew in the usual way. When the system launches in January 2025, you will receive an email to log in to the portal, but you will not be asked to renew again until a year after your most recent renewal. You will be given the option to sign up to auto-renew annually, and your membership will last a year after your last renewal. Once you have access to the portal, you will be able to update your own information, including contact information.

When it comes time to renew, you will receive an email reminder. Dues will no longer be a fixed rate but will be pay-what-you-can. The recommended dues amount for all members across the country will be \$75, but members can pay any amount (min. \$20), including the current dues rate.

Under the current system, LWV of St. Croix Valley pays a fixed rate per member to LWV of Wisconsin and to LWVUS. Under the new system, a percentage of dues will go to the state and national League. This means that when you renew, if you would like to make an additional contribution directly to LWVSCV as some members choose to do when they renew, this will need to be separate from choosing a higher dues amount. A higher dues amount benefits the League as a whole and allows us to offer the option of lower dues to increase our member base but does not exclusively support the local League.

There will still be the option to renew by check for members who don't use the internet, but members who are able to access the portal and renew that way are encouraged to do so.

On a member level, we hope these changes will make managing your membership easier. On a League level, this is expected to increase membership around the country and increase our ability to empower voters and defend democracy. We will keep you informed as we have new and relevant information.

Election Reflection Dane County LWV

Follow this link to view the Dane County LWV Election Reflections forum on Dec. 10 that examined the impact of the new district maps, the fairness of the vote in Wisconsin, and the Electoral College. <https://youtu.be/S-zGmvR0He0?feature=shared>