



OUR MISSION: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

February 1, 2025



"We do solemnly swear that we will empower voters and defend our democracy.

That we will faithfully execute our civic responsibility as nonpartisan advocates.

We do this fearlessly, reflectively, and collectively. We act from a place of hope and collective power."

"We affirm that we will work to provide democracy education and election administration support, restore and defend voting rights protections, abolish the Electoral College, protect democracy organizations, and fight for reproductive freedoms.

We will not be deterred from these tasks.

So join us to protect life, liberty, freedom, and justice."

Read more about LWV WI positions and history of policy by following this link: <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/positions>

Learn more about our history at: <https://www.lwv.org/about-us/history>



LWVSCV Winter Gathering A Resounding Success

Forty-six League members and their guests braved -2 degrees F temperatures to attend the LWVSCV Winter Gathering at the Amery Community Center.

Co-Presidents Irene Bugge and Beth Wood thanked all members for their resilience and dedication to the core mission of the League. And for the myriads of ways – both large and small -- that they contributed to defending democracy and empowering voters in 2024.



The afternoon began with a preview of upcoming events and activities for 2025. LWVSCV will celebrate two milestone birthdays this year – the 105 th for LWVUS and the 10 th for our St. Croix Valley chapter. Members were asked to put Sunday, April 27 on their calendars now for the LWVSCV Annual Meeting – the next all League meeting -- scheduled for 2:00 pm at the Amery Community Center.

Kris Surbaugh discussed a Book Study planned for the first quarter of 2025 on the text *From Conflict to Convergence: Coming Together to Solve Tough Problems* by Robert Ferish & Mariah Levison.

Kathy Streitz encouraged members to get to know other League members in their communities by gathering informally in local “hubs.”

Patty Van Nevel talked about Voter Services activities including plans to host voter education tables at local colleges in February to celebrate LWVUS’ 105 th Birthday.

Barb Katt described plans for an in-person Immigration Forum with immigration attorney Marc Prokosch in April.

Nancy Stewart showed off the Twisted Bargello Quilt donated by member Carol Johnson. She announced that this quilt would be used as a League fundraiser and that raffle tickets would go on sale soon.

Vicki Harmon updated us about the much-anticipated Suffragettes Readers Theater production. Four performances are planned during the month of October. The final matinee performance will be on LWV SCV’s 10 th Birthday – October 26!!

Sharyl Manweiler encouraged increased League advocacy on legislative issues.

Lunch with a Mexican theme – hot taco soup, taco salad, sides and desserts -- was served. Special thanks to Edna Early, Patty Van Nevel, Anne Wallisch, Kate Manecke, Kathy Streitz, Kris Surbaugh, Beth Wood and many others who prepared food, served and cleaned up in the kitchen.

Thanks also to Kathy Streitz and Beth Wood for managing the check-in table and to Kay Brooks and Patty Van Nevel for setting up the League display table with educational materials and the spinning wheel. Many thanks to Kris Surbaugh for putting together a collage of photos capturing League activities in 2024 that was shown at the event.



Barbara McAfee our keynote was the grand finale of the afternoon. Her presentation was entitled: *Who You Gonna Be While You Do What You Do? Five Practices for Sustaining Energy and Humanity in the Midst of Chaos.* Her keynote had five ideas with a song for each and tied them to the hand.

Participants were invited to make their own handouts by drawing around their hands and taking notes on what they wanted to remember.

The five ideas:

1. Tame Your Brain Rats (negative thoughts)
2. Remember Why You're Doing What You're Doing
3. Honor Your Lineage
4. Be Kind to Yourself and Others
5. Give Up Doing Stuff That Has No Meaning for Life

We received positive feedback about the Winter Gathering. Here are a few quotes from the feedback forms in answer to the question:

What did you like about the Winter Gathering?

Great spirit. -- Very welcoming. -- Relaxing. Didn't worry about how to change the world. --

Good Food. -- Speaker and agenda blended nicely. Motivated us all. -- Getting to know others. -- Meeting people--Learn faces-- Keynote speaker--Message was great and applicable. -- Info and food, wonderful. -- Enthusiasm. Food. Inspirational. -- Warm and friendly time together. -- Very positive atmosphere. Open to ideas and welcoming to newcomers.



Members were asked to put Sunday, April 27 on their calendars now for the LWVSCV Annual meeting scheduled for 2:00 pm at the Amery Community Center.

February 1, 2025 Voter Services Reminder! Upcoming elections:

Spring Primary - February 18 Spring Election - April 1

Get Ready, Get set, Go!

Spring Primaries are coming our way and we want you to be prepared to help our friends and neighbors know what's on the ballot. [My Vote <myvote.wi.gov>](http://myvote.wi.gov) is a one stop shop for everything you need to know. The primaries are only for elections that have more than one candidate, so some of you may have a local primary and some may not, depending on your address. Everyone in WI will vote for the Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Education. My Vote offers information on all the local candidates in the primary. My Vote is a respected source for candidate information. Be sure to visit: myvote.wi.gov for your voter needs.

Another trusted source for voting information is the <https://elections.wi.gov> / (WEC) If you are interested in becoming a Poll Worker or an Election Observer you will find everything you need to know at the WEC. If you have questions about election security or integrity this is the perfect source to find answers.

The League of Women Voters has evolved from a mighty political experiment designed to help 20 million newly enfranchised women vote in 1920, to a nonpartisan organization that is a recognized force in molding political leaders, shaping public policy, and promoting informed civic participation. To join us for our next 100 years, join your local League today!

Happy Birthday LWV

We have a reservation at UWRF to celebrate the **League of Women Voters 105th birthday** with a “Get Out the Vote” table with lots of information to assist students to register on February 14th!

We'll have two more birthday celebrations:

- one at Northwood Tech in New Richmond on February 11 from 11-1
- and another at Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) in River Falls on February 19th from 11-1.

If you are interested in being part of the celebration please call **Patty Van Nevel at 651-271-9942** or pattyvannevel@gmail.com

In the February 15 newsletter expect to find a short online survey that will help us identify the things you want to participate in with the League. We have so many choices and so many of you are excited to be more active. Thank you for all the positive things we heard at the Winter Gathering.



The Friday Memorial Library in New Richmond has planned a St Croix County Judicial Candidate Forum and the LWVSCV has offered our support and involvement. We will have a presence at this event with voting information and materials regarding the upcoming Primary and April Election. This is a great opportunity for our membership to attend a forum and support Democracy in action

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

New Richmond Civic Center.

**Come meet the candidates for Branch 2 St. Croix County Circuit Court Judge ahead of the primary election on February 18 and general election on April 1.*

Candidates: Heather Amos, Jamie Johnson, Brian Smestad



Member Services

Please watch your email for upcoming coffees!

Hello everyone! We had a marvelous Winter Gathering! Our speaker was magnificent! Thanks to all who came and to those who organized!

Please welcome our three newest members. Reach out and welcome our new friends! Thank you!

Bridget King Wescott, Amery, B4B2King@gmail.com

Carol Skinner, Houlton, cskinner@skinnerlaw.com

Colleen Kwong, St. Croix Falls, colleenkwong@gmail.com



SIGNS UP for Feb 18 - Spring Primary

If you can put signs up, here is the timeline for placement. This is optional because of frozen ground and no snow. I tied mine to a tree and birdhouse post. Every little bit helps.

Vote from Home signs can be put out immediately - Pick up on Tues, Feb 11

Vote Tuesday signs should be put out on Wed, Feb 12 - Pick up on Wed, Feb 19

Thank You Election Workers can be put out on Wed, Feb 19 - Pick up on Tues, Feb 25



School Board Candidate Information

The elves have been busy, sleuthing around to find out just which school districts are having Board of Education elections and/or referendums—and who the candidates are. Many thanks to several members who have made the work easy by making that one (usually) phone call! You will find that information on our LWV SCV website to the right of the Spring Primary Election flyer. There is a

link to all the School Board candidate information. Extra big thanks to Evanne Hunt, who has that special talent to be able to clearly post information that yours truly is unable to do!

If your town isn't listed, it doesn't have Board of Education positions open. There don't seem to be any school referendums this year. We have also listed suggestions as to where to find out about the candidates. That varies, but as League members, we want to vote for candidates who support education and open-mindedness, and our philosophy in general. Be sure to check this out on our website!

And be sure to vote in the **Spring Primary Election!** It is on **Tuesday, February 18th**. You can see your ballot at MyVote.wi.gov. If you choose to vote absentee, you need to make a request (again at My Vote.wi.gov). You can request for one election at a time or for the entire year.

Kay Brooks



Seeking LWVSCV fellowship?

Several coffee sessions will be offered this year—each gathering will be in a different location and with different opportunities to put faces to names, learn more about the League, and show support to each other in these challenging times! Fill yourself up with some tasty refreshments, surround yourself with some good people, and you're bound to feel great by the time you leave! Here are the details of our first gathering:

DATE: Thursday, February 13

TIME: 2:30-4:00

WHERE: Table 65 729 N. Knowles, New Richmond

- (just south of the stop/go lights at N. Knowles and 4th St., in a small strip mall set back from the road.) Table 65 offers hot beverages; wine, etc.; appetizers, desserts for purchase
- RSVPs HELPFUL, BUT NOT NECESSARY:** It just helps the restaurant to know how many are expected. Last minute attendees and guests are

welcome!



Watch for more opportunities to gather in the coming newsletters.

If you have a particular place in mind or have specific things you wish to learn about the League – their are probably others with the same interest. Please reach out to

Kay Brooks and Evanne Hunt

715-381-8879 or kaybrooks48@gmail.com

Or Kris Surbaugh 715-566-1186 (text with Coffee

LWV as your intro) or email <aksurbaugh@gmail.com>

(*Photo of League Members gathering for a postcard writing campaign last summer*)

February		Black History Month! https://www.lwv.org/league-management/diversity-equity-inclusion/black-history-month-resources
	1	Newsletter
	5	SCC Judicial Candidate Forum 6-8PM New Richmond Civic Center
	6	Choosing a WI Supreme Court Justice, Webinar, sponsor LWV Dane County
	11	LWVSCV Voter Registration at Northwood Tech
	12	Wisconsin's Civic Health Zoom LWV-La Crosse co-sponsor with LWVSCV.
	13	Table 65 LWVSCV Fellowship Coffee New Richmond 2:30-4PM
	14	LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS 105 YEARS AND GOING STRONG TOGETHER! Get out the Vote (LWVSCV) at UWRF 11AM-1PM
	15	Newsletter
	18	Non-Partisan Primary!
	18	Board/Committee Chairs Meeting, 4-5PM
	19	Get out the Vote (LWVSCV) at Chippewa Valley Technical College – River Falls 11AM-1PM
	20	Voter Registration Training from LWVGCV
	25	Webinar LWVWI: <i>Wisconsin Supreme Court Elections: Judging the Judiciary</i> , 6:00 pm (Save the date – registration not open yet)
	26	Book Study (From Conflict to Convergence) Zoom 5PM
March		Women's History Month Disability Awareness Month National Reading Month
	1	Newsletter
	6	Responsible Gun Laws and Policies, Webinar, sponsor Dane County

March	7	<i>Anniversary of Bloody Sunday</i> <i>The Women of Bloody Sunday</i> Blog: https://www.lwv.org/blog/women-bloody-sunday <i>Selma and the Current Threats to Voting Rights Act</i> Blog: https://www.lwv.org/blog/selma-and-current-threats-voting-rights-act
	8	<i>International Women's Day</i>
	15	Newsletter
	18	Board/Committee Chairs Meeting, 4-5PM
	31	International Transgender Day of Visibility
April	1	Spring Election
	1	Newsletter
	8	LWVSCV Forum on Immigration, Amery Community Center 6:30PM
	15	Newsletter
	21	Board/Committee Chairs 4-5PM
	27	Annual Meeting, 2:00 - 5:00. Amery Community Center

Wondering what to do? Want to take action? Check out the ACLU page here: <https://www.aclu.org/action>



LWV of Greater Chippewa Valley is offering a voter registration training session on Thursday, **February 20th from 6:00pm-8:00pm, via Zoom**. This session is open to our members and to the general public.

The goal, as always, is for you to feel comfortably knowledgeable when helping others register to vote in Wisconsin and to know how to access expert resources. New volunteers should take this training before heading to their first voter registration event, and experienced volunteers are welcome to refresh their knowledge.

Presenters will role-play some common scenarios that volunteers may experience at voter registration drives, provide handouts, and answer questions.

Topics include:

- Registration methods (by mail, in person, or online through [MyVote.wi.gov](https://www.mylvote.wi.gov))
- Registration deadlines
- Eligibility requirements
- Required documents

In addition, participants will see how to use [MyVote.wi.gov](https://www.mylvote.wi.gov) to locate practical information for voters:

- Their municipal clerk or their polling place
- Upcoming election dates
- What's on the ballot
- Their voting activity history
- How to request an absentee ballot

To register (**required**) for this free training; please follow these steps:

1. Go to the calendar on our League website here:
https://www.lwv-gcv.org/content.aspx?page_id=4091&club_id=329843&item_id=2521618
2. **Members of LWVGCV will log in. WE don't have to follow the next directions**
3. Scroll down and follow the directions to register as a member or general public
4. Enter your name and contact information and to answer three questions about any prior experience with voter registration assistance (no experience necessary)
5. After registering, you will receive an email confirming your registration and the Zoom link
6. **Handouts will be emailed to you a few days before the training; please print what you'll need at the session**

For more information, please contact Lori Miller at lbmiller492@gmail.com.



Join us Feb. 6, 6:30-8:00 for a webinar entitled: How to Choose a Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice.

The league has assembled a panel of experts to take questions from the public, including: Robert Yablon law professor at UW Law School; Judge Paul B. Higginbotham; and Jeff Mandell general counsel of Law Forward. Attorney Marilyn Townsend will moderate.

Yablon will address the task of judging a Supreme Court candidate. Higginbotham's topic will discuss the role campaign finance plays in the elections and Mandell will talk about what the 2025-2026 Wisconsin Supreme court docket will look like.

Registration can be found at:

<https://www.lwvdanecounty.org/forums/wi-supreme-court-election>.

Feel free to share this information with friends and family. We hope to see you there.



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>

*What is the easiest way to participate in LWWSCV?
Like/share/amplify our messages on FACEBOOK and
Instagram*