



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

February 15, 2025



St Croix County Judicial Candidate Forum Collaboration Success!

On February 5, the LWVSCV was well represented at the SCC Judicial Candidate Forum at the New Richmond Civic Center.

Facilitated by the Friday Memorial Library the league submitted questions, had an information table, greeted attendees to the forum and league member Patty Van Nevel served as time keeper.

Ten members of our League volunteered and/or attended the event.

The forum was filled to capacity and the moderator, Library Director Monica LaVold, acknowledged and thanked the LWVSCV for its support and presence. Democracy in 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.

VIRTUAL WEBINAR

Wisconsin Supreme Court Election: Judging Judicial Candidates

25 FEBRUARY → 06:00 pm

Chad Oldfather > Marquette University Law School
 Rob Yablou > State Democracy Research Initiative
 Attorney Jeff Mandell > Law Forward




Supreme Court Election Webinar Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/X3idkeST0m2phpnhk6gclO#/registration>

College visits are underway!

This February we are visiting three colleges to celebrate the 105th birthday of the League of Women Voters.

- Northwood Tech on Feb 11
- Chippewa Valley Tech college Feb 19
- UW RiverFalls on Feb 25

Next up: High Schools

Our Season of Outreach 2025

has begun with Kay Brooks and Jarell Kuney setting up a display at Northwood Technical College (New Richmond) on Feb 11th.



This past Tuesday, Jarell Kuney and Kay Brooks “manned” a table at Northwest Technical College in New Richmond. They caught the interest of approximately 45 students with invitations to spin the popular wheel. Any answer to a question earned a variety of small prizes. More importantly, it provided a chance for our volunteers to discuss the upcoming spring elections and provide handouts related to voter registration. This is one of three events being held at area colleges in honor of the 105th birthday of the League of Women Voters. Many thanks for the warm welcome we received from the college staff!

Thanks Kay and Jarell for reaching out to the next generation! If you are interested in participating with outreach events like these– contact Patty Van Nevel of voters services <pattyvannevel@gmail.com> to find out more.



We all love a party!

Do you like to help at parties?

We need volunteer party helpers to take on the responsibility of organizing the refreshments/ decorations/ set up and clean up for our **annual meeting**.

The date is set for April 27. The location is secured at the Amery Community Center. If you like working ‘behind the scenes’ to make a party a success–

We need YOU to make it a celebration of the LWVSCV.

Contact Kathy Steitz <kfstreitz@gmail.com> to sign up

A Cultural Conversation

A presentation of the culture and history of the St. Croix Tribe by Wanda McFaggen, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin.



Thursday, February 20 6pm

in the large meeting room
across the hall from the library
310 Chieftain St., Osceola



This cultural event is offered by the Wilberg Memorial Library in Osceola, WI.

Coming soon:

Thursday, February 20

6PM

Contact Wilberg Memorial Library for more details ([\(715\) 294-2310](tel:7152942310))

<https://www.osceolapubliclibrary.org/>

This learning opportunity was shared with us by Carolyn Saunders. Thank you, Carolyn!

Do you know of a fun and interesting event that you would like the membership to know about?

Whether a book, podcast, movie, or live event, feel free to contact me with your idea! ~ ~ Kris

<aksurbaugh@gmail.com>



LWV SCV Collaborate with Amery Library

The Amery Public Library and the League of Women Voters of St Croix Valley cordially invite you to an evening of information and community engagement focused on the immigration process and potential changes under the new federal administration.

Immigration Attorney **Marc Prokosch of Roseville, MN** will be addressing many of these issues on April 8th at 6:30 PM at the Amery Community Center.

Marc founded Prokosch Law in 2019 after working at a previous immigration firm from 2003 to 2019. Marc regularly handles the most complex immigration cases, representing individuals throughout the immigration process, from application to appeal. To learn more visit: <https://www.prokoschlaw.com/our-team>

All League members are highly encouraged to attend this free event (and bring a friend!)

Marc Prokosch, Speaker
April 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Amery Community Center
608 Harriman Ave Amery, Wisconsin

Parking is free and accessible and snacks will be provided. Free will donations are welcome. For those unable to attend in person, a YouTube video will be available for later viewing. Follow this newsletter in the coming weeks to find out more!

Member Services

Kathy Streitz

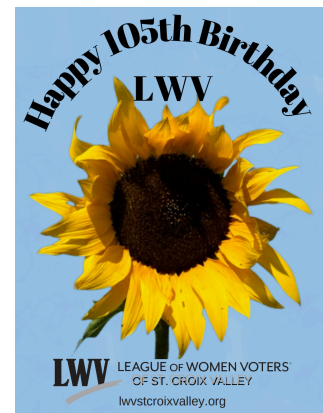
Hello to you all!

Please welcome our newest members:

Karen Smith, Hudson, karen.leigh.smith@gmail.com

Linda Bowitz, Osceola. lbowitz@me.com

Reach out and welcome Karen and Linda!





Up North Coffee Time

We promised a coffee session to be held in Polk or Burnett County, so here it is! As with the coffee session held in St. Croix County, ALL are invited, no matter where you live! It's winter, so watch for a date adjustment due to weather as we get closer to the planned date.

DATE: Thursday, February 27

TIME: 12:30 - 2PM (closing time)

WHERE: 3 Arrows Coffee Company, 510 S. Vincent St., St. Croix Falls

Just off Hwy. 8. Coming from the south on Hwy. 35, go under the bridge and it's on the right. From the East, it's the 1st St. Croix Falls exit.

Great drink choices available as well as pastries and sandwiches. This is a popular place so plan extra time to get your order in.

RSVPs HELPFUL, BUT NOT NECESSARY: It just helps the restaurant to know how many are expected. **Last minute attendees and guests are welcome!**

[Any member, especially living closer to St. Croix Falls, willing to co-host would be appreciated. It's EASY!](#)

Kay Brooks

715-381-8879 or kaybrooks48@gmail.com

Coffee Session in St. Croix County



On Thursday, Feb. 13, ten League members gathered at Table 65 in New Richmond. It was a great chance to better get to know each other and share both serious conversation and laughs. It was exciting to hear about future events.

Vicki Harmon talked about planning the Readers Theater and Edna Early told us about the Immigration Presentation to be held in April. Irene Bugge is working with Katrina Larsen on a plan to somewhat restructure the leadership model. There was no shortage of things to talk about.

Kay Brooks introduced her vision of creating either an email group or a Facebook page to privately share concerns, current issues, good resources for information, ideas for activism, and for taking care of our mental health. It was great together in person!

We are looking forward to holding coffee sessions on the 2nd Thursday of every month in St. Croix County and the 4th Thursday of every month for Polk and Burnett Counties. See the next invitation in this newsletter.

Kay Brooks and Evanne Hunt



Another New Amendment on the April Ballot!

Wisconsin voters will be asked one question to amend (change) the constitution on their April ballot. This amendment, the sixth proposed by the legislature in the last year, is another example of the legislature attempting to **bypass the authority of the executive and judicial branches through the constitutional amendment process, while denying voters the ability to propose their own citizen-led ballot initiatives.**

Whether you love it or hate it, Wisconsin already has a strict voter ID law on the books. This constitutional amendment seeks to enshrine Wisconsin's voter ID law in the state constitution. While the amendment would not significantly alter the current voter ID law, *it would make it harder to remove the photo ID requirement and limit the court's ability to protect voters disenfranchised by the law.*

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin knows that if this amendment is passed it will be harmful to the people of our state. We urge voters to VOTE NO on this question.

To find out more about this upcoming Amendment check out the information on the League of Women Voters Wisconsin – here is a quick link to get you there: <https://bit.ly/WIVotesNo>

February		Black History Month! https://www.lwv.org/league-management/diversity-equity-inclusion/black-history-month-resources
	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 (see article in this newsletter)
	25	Webinar LWVWI: <i>Wisconsin Supreme Court Elections: Judging the Judiciary</i> , 6:00 pm (Save the date – registration not open yet)
	25	LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS 105 YEARS AND GOING STRONG TOGETHER! Get out the Vote (LWVSCV) at UWRF 11AM-1PM
	26	Book Study (From Conflict to Convergence) Zoom 5PM
	27	Coffee Session at St Croix Falls 12:30 – 2:00 PM
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	International Women's Day
	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



Leadership Team

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

“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.”

LWV

“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>

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