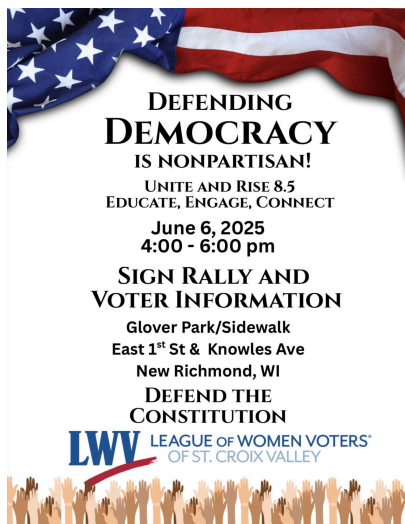




OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

May 15, 2025



LWVSCV Launch Unite and Rise 8.5 at Glover Park!

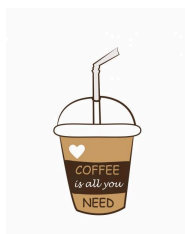
On Friday, June 6, 2025 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. we will gather in New Richmond at Glover Park, located on E. 1st Street and Knowles Avenue. Our focus will be signs promoting “Defending Democracy is Nonpartisan”, “Defend our Constitution” and also the LWV Vote signs that we already have.

Our League has held a sign rally there in the past. It is a public space, with ample sidewalk area and it is next to our public library and across the street from our City Office.

The New Richmond City Clerk, Michelle, will have an information table and answer voting questions. We will have an information table with our League materials promoting our mission of educating and empowering voters. We will focus on engagement, connection, and being inclusive.

As League members, we hope that you will support this peaceful and family friendly event by attending and sharing this information with friends and family.

Save the date, and watch for more detailed information in the June 1 newsletter.



Early Evening Coffee Opportunity in Amery

We have some members who are still working or who are busy during the day, so we are going to give an early evening coffee a try. This is the plan:

DATE: Wednesday, May 21

TIME: 5:00–6:30 PM

PLACE: Junior’s Kitchen in Amery 110 Keller Ave. We have reserved the back room. Come for a beverage and snack—or pick up some dinner!

RSVP if you can so we can tell the restaurant how many people are coming. However, come even if you haven't reserved. Guests are welcome, so bring a friend!

Kay Brooks

715-381-8879 kaybrooks48@gmail.com

[LWV Declares United States in a "Constitutional Crisis,"](#)



May 1: League of Women Voters Launches 'Unite and Rise 8.5' Initiative

LWV Launches New Initiative to Mobilize 8.5 Million Voters Through Advocacy, Civic Education, and Engagement (May 1, 2025)

Washington, DC — ..., the League of Women Voters of the United States, a century-old nonpartisan organization, launched a powerful new initiative, *Unite and Rise 8.5*, which aims to engage and mobilize 8.5 million voters through advocacy, civic education, and community engagement. On April 17, 2025, Celina Stewart, CEO of the League of Women Voters, and Dianna Wynn, president of the League of Women Voters, took the serious step of labelling our current moment a constitutional crisis, and concurrently announced the *Unite and Rise 8.5* initiative.

“In the first 100 days of the Trump administration, as our constitution and rule of law have been assailed, the democracy movement has been on the defensive,” said Celina Stewart, CEO of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “Today, that changes. *Unite and Rise 8.5* embodies a proactive, positive vision of what America can be — something that anyone who cares about democracy, no matter their party affiliation, can participate in. More than 105 years ago, women of all political leanings fought together for the freedom to vote, and the unprecedented political moment we find ourselves in today demands we take action to lead a movement again.”

- ☐ Links to dive deeper:

<https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwv-declares-united-states-constitutional-crisis-announces-new-initiative>

- ☐ Sign up to 'Stay up to date with Women Defend Democracy'
<<https://www.lwv.org/take-action/women-defend-democracy>>

Celeste Koeberl <Koeberl@mac.com> 651-247-0399 mobile

Coffee Conversations: May 8 at the Barnboard in Roberts:

Welcome to new members, Sandra Hohman and Kathy Kraemer! So glad you came!



I smiled all the way home after our coffee at the Barnboard early this month. We had a good crowd of veteran members, Board members, and new members Sandra Hohman and Kathy Kraemer. We shared all kinds of information from personal stories to League activities. More serious discussion included: emails falsely coming from Beth asking for help buying gift cards, a fundraiser for a beautiful quilt donated by member Carol Johnson, how to best pay our

dues, and a pro-democracy event to be held in Glover Park, New Richmond, on June 6. Help would be welcomed for the Membership and Finance Committees, and with Farmers Markets. There are all kinds of opportunities, from small projects that can be done at home to more involved projects. (See other parts of this newsletter.)

And best of all—we shared lots of laughs and came away with new and deeper friendships.

Kay Brooks

REMINDER: Our League leaders will NEVER email you and ask for help with any electronic purchase. Always check the sender's address if you are suspicious. Delete and ignore. If you have been a victim of phishing scams—be sure to report it.

[Submit a complaint | Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](https://www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint/)

<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint/>

[How To Recognize and Avoid Phishing Scams | Consumer Advice](https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams)

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>



The LWVWI Voter Services Committee

would like to invite any interested member to participate in our upcoming Voter Services Community Conversations. The purpose of this series is to create a space for League members interested in voter services to join together in conversation around a voter services topic each month.

These informal conversations will be held over zoom. Each session will have one or more discussion leaders who are knowledgeable about the topic. Sessions will be held over the noon hour on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month. Each conversation will begin with 15 minutes of free form networking with the topic driven conversation to begin at 12:15pm.

Our next community conversation is on May 20, 2025 at 12pm and we will hear from Rommel Sandino, LWVUS National Organizing Director, who will be discussing the recently announced Constitutional Crisis and the Unite and Rise 8.5 mobilization campaign.

Have questions about the Constitutional Crisis or the Unite and Rise 8.5 campaign?
Send us your question:

<https://lwvwi.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=28ea86dd7c46f5cfdcf3e4a00&id=c16f8a1b49&e=2023b8d74c>

Here is the link to join the zoom call. We hope to see you there!

<https://lwvwi.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=28ea86dd7c46f5cfdcf3e4a00&id=506f35726e&e=2023b8d74c>



TIME FOR FARMERS' MARKETS!

As the weather warms up, farmers' markets are starting. We have plans to represent the League at approximately 10 markets this summer, from River Falls all the way up to Webster.

Several members stepped up to do at least one market last year. Some set up at multiple markets. Our fun spinning wheels brought lots of visitors to our table so we could offer handouts and engage in good conversations.

Each market had a 2 person team with one guaranteed to have experience. A second person gave additional support and help. It's a great chance to share our passion for voting and get to know a fellow member better.

All members will be receiving an email with information about the farmers' markets we would like to set up at. Please consider taking on one market this season (or more). You will have

everything you need—and a promise of a good time. This is a fun and easy chance to make a difference! Look for more information this week via an email.

Kay Brooks



LWVSCV Kicks Off Farmers' Market Season in Webster!

Thanks to an invitation from Northwest Passage Gallery, the League has an opportunity to set up a table in Webster on Friday, May 23! This is an exciting event for two big reasons: It is the first event of our 2025 season where we can initiate our Unite, Rise, 8.5 directive from National, and it is our first farmers market in Burnett County! League members Kris Surbaugh and Marie Engdahl are very excited to be

hosting this historic event.

"The Northwest Passage Gallery... is an innovative, multi-use community center and gallery, developed in partnership with the Burnett Area Arts Group (BAAG), (which) showcases local artists' work in many different mediums. The building also features the InaNewLight Gallery, displaying the photography of the youth of Northwest Passage, a residential mental health treatment center for children. InaNewLight is a therapeutic photography program that harnesses the power of art and nature, empowering young people who are struggling with mental health issues to perceive themselves through a lens of strength and awe-inspiring accomplishments. Visit the Northwest Passage Gallery and be inspired!" (<http://nwpgallery.org>)

Please take some time on May 23 from 11AM - 3PM to visit the Market, join us for a coffee, check out the other vendors and tour the Gallery!

May	15	Newsletter
	20	Board/Committee Chairs (tentative)
	23	Farmers Market Webster (Kris leads) Coffee Klatch, too!
June	1	Newsletter

	6	Unite, Rise, 8.5 Launch in Glover Park!
	14	A Flag For Us All Day–Hudson
	15	Newsletter
	21	Valley Wide Pride Event – Hudson
July		NR Fun Fest
	4	Independence Day! Celebrate Supporting Our Democracy!



Budget Committee

Janet Ballis Lestock, Chair 2025-2026

Barb Katt 2025-2026

Voters Services: (interim) Kay Brooks,

Board of Directors

Co-President: BethWood

Co-President: Irene Bugge

Treasurer: Katrina Larsen

Secretary: Evanne Hunt

Director: Kathy Streitz

Director: Vicki Harmon

Nominating Committee

Marcy Armstrong 2025-2026

Kay Brooks 2025-2026

Here's a partial list of upcoming public rallies and meetings (updated 5/13/25)

from Celeste Koeberl <koeberl@mac.com>:

- ☐ • **Sat. May 17, 11AM – Noon**, Lake Elmo MN, Street Rally at Tesla Dealership, 9800 Hudson Blvd. N., Afton Indivisible, recurring weekly, details and registration at <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/781510/>
- ☐ • **Sat. May 17, Noon – 2PM**, Stillwater MN, Street Rally, Oak Park Crossing Park, 15125 60th St. N., details and registration at <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/777226/>
- ☐ • **Sat. May 17, Noon – 2PM**, New Richmond, Street Rally and March, convene at MaRita Park and walk to intersection of Hwys. 64 & 65 in Downtown New Richmond, Chris Armstrong
- ☐ • **Sun. May 18, 1 – 2:30PM**, Hudson, Coalition Building and Event Planning, Hop & Barrel, Good Trouble, recurring monthly

- ☐ • **Sun. May 18**, 2 – 4PM, St. Croix Falls WI / Taylors Falls MN, Street Rally on Hwy. 8 bridge, gather on MN side, St. Croix River Valley Resistance and Polk Burnett Indivisible, recurring weekly
- ☐ • **Mon. May 19**, 4 – 6PM, Hudson, “Moral Monday” Street Rally at Second and Vine Streets, HudsonWisc Indivisible, recurring every other week, details and registration at <https://mobilize.us/s/EdraZd>
- ☐ • **Tues. May 20**, 5 – 6PM, River Falls, Street Rally at S. Main and Cascade Streets, by the Dairy Queen, River Falls Social Justice / OUTRAGE, recurring weekly
- ☐ • **Sat. May 24**, 11AM – Noon, Lake Elmo MN, Street Rally at Tesla Dealership, 9800 Hudson Blvd. N., Afton Indivisible, recurring weekly, details and registration at <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/781510/>
- ☐ • **Sun. May 25**, 2 – 4PM, St. Croix Falls WI / Taylors Falls MN, Street Rally on Hwy. 8 bridge, gather on MN side, St. Croix River Valley Resistance and Polk Burnett Indivisible, recurring weekly
- ☐ • **Tues. May 27**, 5 – 6PM, River Falls, Street Rally at S. Main and Cascade Streets, by the Dairy Queen, River Falls Social Justice / OUTRAGE, recurring weekly
- ☐ • **Sat. May 31**, 11AM – Noon, Lake Elmo MN, Street Rally at Tesla Dealership, 9800 Hudson Blvd. N., Afton Indivisible, recurring weekly, details and registration at <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/781510/>
- ☐ • **Sat. May 17**, Noon – 2PM, Stillwater, Street Rally, Oak Park Crossing Park, 15125 60th St. N., details and registration at <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/777226/>
- ☐ • **Sat. May 31**, Noon – 2PM, New Richmond, Street Rally and March, convene at MaRita Park and walk to intersection of Hwys. 64 & 65 in Downtown New Richmond, Chris Armstrong
- ☐ • **Sun. June 1**, 2 – 4PM, St. Croix Falls WI / Taylors Falls MN, Street Rally on Hwy. 8 bridge, gather on MN side, St. Croix River Valley Resistance and Polk Burnett Indivisible, recurring weekly
- ☐ • **Mon. June 2**, 4 – 6PM, Hudson, “Moral Monday” Street Rally at Second and Vine Streets, HudsonWisc Indivisible, details and registration at <https://mobilize.us/s/EdraZd>
- ☐ • **Tues. June 3**, 5 – 6PM, River Falls, Street Rally at S. Main and Cascade Streets, by the Dairy Queen, River Falls Social Justice / OUTRAGE, recurring weekly
- ☐ • **Fri. June 6, 4 – 6PM, New Richmond, Project Kick-Off at Glover Park, LWVSCV: Unite and Rise 8.5**

- ☐ • **Sat. June 7**, 11AM – Noon, Lake Elmo MN, Street Rally at Tesla Dealership, 9800 Hudson Blvd. N., Afton Indivisible, recurring weekly, details and registration at <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/781510/>
- ☐ • **Sun. June 8**, 2 – 4PM, St. Croix Falls WI / Taylors Falls MN, Street Rally on Hwy. 8 bridge, gather on MN side, St. Croix River Valley Resistance and Polk Burnett Indivisible, recurring weekly
- ☐ • **Mon. June 9**, 4 – 6PM, River Falls, “Moral Monday” Street Rally at Main and Division Streets, River Falls Indivisible, recurring every other week, details and registration at <https://mobilize.us/s/NKLoU0>
- ☐ • **Tues. June 10**, 5 – 6PM, River Falls, Street Rally at S. Main and Cascade Streets, by the Dairy Queen, River Falls Social Justice / OUTRAGE, recurring weekly
- ☐ • **Sat. June 14**, 11AM – 2:30PM, Hudson, Rally, HudsonWisc Indivisible and River Falls Indivisible, details and registration at <https://mobilize.us/s/PPXRxm>
- ☐ Please join us in Hudson WI on Saturday, June 14, anytime between 11AM – 2:30PM, to take part in any or all of our day’s family-friendly events, including:
 - ☐ *11 – 11:45AM: Hold signs and flags at Second and Vine Streets, then parade down Vine Street to the Bandshell in Lakefront Park!
 - ☐ *11:30 – Noon: Enjoy live music at the Bandshell in Lakefront Park, and visit with folks from local organizations about how to help make positive changes in our communities and country!
 - ☐ *Noon – 2PM: Join our Rally at the Bandshell in Lakefront Park, featuring entertaining theatrics, inspiring speakers, an open mic, crowd chants and sing-a-longs, calls to action, and more!
 - ☐ *2 – 2:30PM: Enjoy more live music at the Bandshell in Lakefront Park!
- ☐ On June 14, we will celebrate America’s Flag Day as “A Flag For Us All”, proclaim our Constitution’s “No Kings” promise, and with our people-power “Kick Out The Clowns”! Please join our peaceful and fun exercises of our First Amendment rights--to assemble, speak freely, and petition for redress of grievances. Bring your family and friends, too!
- ☐ **On June 14**, 10:30-12 Noon, “No Kings” “Support our Constitution!” rally Siren, WI. Corner of 35-70 *Peaceful sign rally* across from Farmers Market.
- ☐ • **Sat. June 14**, Noon – 2PM, Stillwater MN, “No Kings” Rally, Oak Park Crossing Park, 15125 60th St. N., details and registration at <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/786456/>

- ☐ • **Tues. June 17**, 5 – 6PM, River Falls, Street Rally at S. Main and Cascade Streets, by the Dairy Queen, River Falls Social Justice / OUTRAGE, recurring weekly
- ☐ • **Mon. June 23**, 4 – 6PM, River Falls, “Moral Monday” Street Rally at Main and Division Streets, River Falls Indivisible, details and registration at <https://mobilize.us/s/NKLoU0>
- ☐ • **Sat. July 5**, 10AM – 1PM, Hudson, March in Booster Days Parade
- ☐ • **Fri. July 11**, 5 – 7PM, River Falls, March in River Falls Days Parade