



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

June 15, 2025



Unite and Rise 8.5!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Unite, Rise 8.5 kick-off on June 6, 2025 a gratifying and successful event. The LWVSCV hosted 40 members, volunteers and guests from 4:00 – 6:00 in Glover Park, New Richmond. Our

Farmers Market display tent was the hub of activity as we lined Knowles Avenue holding signs with messages such as *Defend our Democracy, Preserve Democracy, Your Vote is Your Voice, Honk if You Vote, Protect Voting Rights, Protect Our Constitution* and more.

Other activities expanded our voice for democracy, for example the New Richmond Library Director introduced an opportunity to write postcards in support of Library funding. The New Richmond City Clerk spoke on the importance of Voting and was available to answer any voting questions. Our Voter Services members provided the tent, wheel, candy and LWV materials as well as coordinating with the Library to have available yard games.

We are grateful to volunteers that helped with set up and take down. Our volunteer speakers were passionate and articulate about issues we all care about: Veteran Funding Cuts; Cuts to funding for prevention of Domestic Abuse; Protection of our Environment; The SAVE Act; Due Process and the League's position that we are in a Constitutional Crisis, the latter driving the Unite and Rise 8.5 nationwide campaign.





As we continue to move forward in this campaign we will learn as we go, experiment with ideas, opportunities and collaborations with other nonpartisan groups and continue to be a voice in our communities to effect change and form connections. Following the event, many of us gathered at Table 65 to enjoy a meal and conversation. We are stronger together. Forward.

Calling All Members!

**We are looking forward to seeing you in person at our
Board and Committee Chairs Meeting**

on June 17, 2025, 4:00-6:00 pm

at Greatons Room, Champs Bar, New Richmond.

All members are invited to attend this in person Board Meeting. We will take time to connect with each other, especially before and after the one hour Business Meeting. Board members and committee chairs will be available to answer questions informally about the League, their experience as leaders and listen to your ideas and suggestions as our new 2025-2026 program year begins. We will also take this opportunity to thank four dedicated League leaders who will be stepping away from their current positions on July 1.

Questions? Call or email Beth, Irene, or Kris.



Encouraging words from Cecily Myart-Cruz.

Cecily Myart-Cruz is a teacher, activist, and the first woman of color in UTLA's (United Teachers of Los Angeles) history to serve as president of the union.

On a recent webinar she spoke to maintaining hope when faced with seemingly impossible odds:

“Have Joy in the Resistance”

“Educate and Agitate!”

~~Remember, league members, together we are strong!~~

More Ways to STAY CONNECTED ~~ Here's how:

Due to the number of other opportunities to be with League members, coffees will be suspended for a month or two. We encourage you to join events like:

- ☐ the in-person Board meeting on Tuesday, June 17 at Champs in New Richmond
- ☐ Pridefest on June 21st in Hudson,
- ☐ the Bill of Rights event on June 29th at the government center in Balsam Lake
- ☐ the Funfest Parade on Sunday, July 13 in New Richmond

(check our calendar for more events and notices!)

You are also invited to sign up for a farmers' market near you. Contact Kay Brooks (kaybrooks48@gmail.com).



FARMERS' MARKETS START UP

From the north to the south Farmers Markets are starting up and taking off. On May 23, in Webster, Kris Surbaugh, Marie Engdahl and Kathy Surbaugh attended the Northwest Passage Art Gallery Farmers Market. Then to the south, on Saturday, June 7, Melissa Karl, Liz Bruch, and Kathy Streitz kicked off our Farmers Market season in Hudson at the Carmichael Market.

Several members have assisted in organizing multiple markets: Barb Wetzel, Irene Bugge, Janet Ellinger, Kathy Streitz, and Nanette DelMonaco. Their help is greatly appreciated!

Partners (preferably those who haven't tried it before) are needed for:

- ☐ Katrina Larsen at Rush River Market, River Falls, on Thursday, June 19, 5-8 PM
- ☐ Marcy Armstrong at Heritage Center, New Richmond, on Saturday, July 12, 8-1 PM

Both are experienced and will gladly show you the ropes!

In July we will add on the Somerset and Osceola Markets. Please use the information below to find a market that you would be willing to help with. Remember, each market will have an experienced volunteer and the supplies that you need. Let's make our League available to the public to offer voting information and encourage voter engagement in elections!

Contact: Kay Brooks kaybrooks48@gmail.com. If interested in the Osceola Market, you can also contact Barb Wetzel barbarawetzel@hotmail.com If interested in the Amery Market, contact you can also Irene Bugge irenebugge@gmail.com

ST. CROIX COUNTY FARMERS MARKET SCHEDULES AND CALENDAR LINK

Hudson Faith Community Church Saturdays 8-12 AM
River Falls Rush River Brewery Thursdays 5-8 PM
New Richmond Heritage Center Saturdays 8-1
Somerset American Legion Thursdays 3-6 PM

July Calendar link for St. Croix Co.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1z5xNtpBSXM_Ss28Sp356d_7E6ThnRvR8O0z3Db-ZLa0/edit?usp=sharing

POLK/BURNETT COUNTY SCHEDULES AND CALENDAR LINK

Osceola United Methodist Church Fridays 2-6 PM
St. Croix Falls library Saturdays 10-1
Balsam Lake Catholic Church Fridays 3-5:30 PM
Amery Soo Line Pavilion Mondays 3-6 PM Saturdays 9-1 PM
Webster Northwest Passage Art Gallery Fridays 11-3PM

July Calendar link for Polk and Burnett Counties

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1E2U5RxNjVtJfTlK9sUPgE6biVSRu9sGjP7xQkDrapKI/edit?usp=sharing>

All Member Zoom Call–Invitation to Learn and Contribute!



Discussion of a Nonpartisan Policy and Process Proposal

Join us for a Membership-Wide Zoom meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 6:30 PM

to discuss a proposal that provides additional guidance on our nonpartisan activities. Watch for an email with meeting details and a copy of the proposal.

Calling All League Members– Volunteer Opportunity New Richmond Fun Fest Parade!



Here is your opportunity to join 105 years of Suffrage History by marching in the New Richmond Fun Fest parade on Sunday, July 13th ! We will have a parade vehicle decorated with Suffrage Sunflowers. We will have candy to throw and we have an important message to share – Defending Democracy is Nonpartisan! Local thrift shops and antique shops are filled with period appropriate Suffrage dresses if you are interested in marching in costume OR wear any LWV or nonpartisan apparel or pins. This will be a great event for the LWVSCV to get our message of **Unite and Rise 8.5** to a large number of people and make an impact. We would like a commitment from a minimum of 8 members to participate.

Parade line up is at 11:00 a.m. and the parade route is the entire length of the NR downtown. This is fun! This is activism! This honors the history of the LWV!

Patty Van Nevel 651-271-9942 or pattyvannevel@gmail.com

Rita Kearns 651-492-8885 or ritakearns54@gmail.com

Thank You!

Patty and Rita

Educate! Where League members recommend vetted educational information. Irene recommends this video series to learn more about the forming of our democracy.

For those who don't know: **Heather Cox Richardson** is an American historian who works as a professor of history at Boston College, where she teaches courses on the American Civil War, the Reconstruction Era, the American West, and the Plains Indians. She previously taught history at MIT and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. HCR's response to misinformation about The Declaration of Independence is here, in the first video series of *Journey to American Democracy* called "**Ten Steps to Revolution.**"

“The Declaration of Independence is indeed very special to our country. But it is not a declaration of love and unity. It is the radical declaration of Americans that human beings have the right to throw off a king in order to govern themselves. I hope you enjoy it.”

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2dS6uX1RkUyIQKUhl72xmstYGNpN_k1B

Do you have a book, podcast, journal, articles, etc that you would like to share with other League members? Contact Kris to have it shared in our newsletter!



LWVSCV will be hosting a table at **Valley Wide Pride Fest** on **June 21st, Hudson Lakefront Park**. This marks the third year of this wonderful celebration and LWVSCV has been at it every year.

If you've never been to this event before, you'd be amazed at the energy, love, and sense of community. It spills out as music, laughter and all sorts of fun.

You will find league members there from 10-4 and it means a lot when others stop by and say hello or lend support. Hope to see you there! Wear your pride and league buttons or pick one up that day.

Who's rights? Our rights!



A workshop on the Bill of Rights presented by St. Paul-based labor Attorney Jeff Leys. Besides representing various unions for over 20 years, Leys has done pro bono work for Minnesota Water Protectors. He is a graduate of William Mitchell College of Law and a member of the National Lawyers Guild

Sunday, June 29, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Polk County Justice Center, 1005 W. Main St.,
Balsam Lake, WI. This event is free and open to the public.

What is the Bill of Rights?
What is Habeas Corpus?
What is Due Process?
What is Birthright Citizenship?
How are my rights being threatened?
Do immigrants have the same rights as me?

Sponsored by Polk Burnett Indivisible



Our next Voter Services Community Conversation is on Tuesday June 17, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. *All members are welcome! The session will not be recorded.* We will be continuing our conversation about the Unite and Rise 8.5 campaign, how we plan to reach and engage 120,000 Wisconsinites, what the needs are from local Leagues, brainstorm actions to take, and answer questions.

Let Delany Zimmer (<dzimmer@lwvwi.org>) know if you have any questions! Below are the details for the zoom session.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81211795145?pwd=7whsCQW7bdaMdWXJB47rAS3mllyJUr.1>

Meeting ID: 812 1179 5145 Passcode: 319841 ---

LWV SCV Leadership Team 2025- 2026

Co-Presidents Irene Bugge <irenebugge@gmail.com>

Beth Wood <bwood@frontiernet.net>

Vice President Kris Surbaugh <aksurbaugh@gmail.com>

Secretary Evanne Hunt <evanne.hunt@outlook.com>

Treasurer Katrina Larsen <katrina_larsen@yahoo.com>

Member Services Chair Kathy Streitz <kfstreitz@gmail.com>

Voter Services Co-Chairs Kay Brooks (interim) <kaybrooks48@gmail.com>

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Communications & Media Chair Kris Surbaugh <aksurbaugh@gmail.com>

Budget Chair Janet Le Stock <janetblestock@gmail.com>

Nominations Chair Kathy Streitz <kfstreitz@gmail.com>

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 Vicki Harmon <vickiharmon@hotmail.com>

JUNE	15	Newsletter
	17	Board Meeting: All Members Invited Champs Bar in New Richmond 4-6PM
	17	LWV WI Voters Services Community Conversation Zoom Call at 12 NOON
	21	Valley Wide Pride Event – Hudson LWVSCV Tabling 10AM-4PM
	21	Farmers Markets, Heritage Center, New Richmond, 8AM-1PM (Sandra Hohman)
	23	Farmers Market, Soo Line Park, Amery, 3PM-6PM (Irene Bugge, Colleen Kwong, Robin Maercklein, Angie Johnson)
	27	Farmers Market, NWP Art Gallery, Webster, 11AM-3PM (Kris Surbaugh, Marie Engdahl, Kathy Surbaugh)
	28	Farmers Market, Heritage Center, New Richmond, 8AM-1PM (Vicki Harmon)
	29	Rights Forum Balsam Lake Collaboration with PBIndivisible: Bill of Rights Workshop “Whose Rights? Our Rights!” Polk County Justice Center, 6:30-8PM
JULY	4	Independence Day
	5	Farmers Market, ST. Croix Falls Library, 10AM-1PM (Nannette Del Monaco)
	13	New Richmond Fun Fest Parade, 12 Noon-1:30 PM
	15	Newsletter
	15	Board/Committee Chairs Meeting 4PM-5PM
AUGUST	1	Newsletter
	6	60th Anniversary of 1965 Voting Rights Act
	15	Newsletter

	19	Board/Committee Chairs Meeting, 4PM-5PM
	26	Women's Equality Day 19th Amendment Rally in Hudson
SEPTEMBER		<i>Readers' Theater Rehearsals</i>
	1	Newsletter
	1	LABOR DAY
	15	Newsletter
	16	National Voters Registration Day
	16	Board/Committee chairs Meeting, 4PM-5PM
	18	LWV WI Webinar on Constitutional Amendments, 7PM: What are the negative consequences of recently passed Constitutional Amendments? What makes a good constitutional amendment?
OCTOBER	1	Newsletter
	15	Newsletter
	18	LWV SCV Readers Theater, Amery Community Center, evening
	19	LWV SCV Readers Theater, Amery Community Center, matinee
	21	Board/Committee Chairs Meeting, 4PM-5PM
	25	LWV SCV Readers Theater, Heritage Center, New Richmond, evening
	26	LWV SCV Readers Theater, Heritage Center, New Richmond, matinee
	26	LWV SCV 10th Birthday! Woohoo!



Ready to protest?

Here's what to know.

As people across Wisconsin and the nation gather to defend democracy and demand justice, we want to make sure you have the tools you need to protest safely and

confidently. Whether it's your first protest or you're a seasoned advocate, preparation is key.

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and the ACLU have created essential resources to help protect your rights and your well-being when attending public demonstrations.

Protest Safety Guidance from LWVUS:

The League has created a powerful guide to help you prioritize your safety when attending protests, including tips on:

- ☐ De-escalating tense situations
- ☐ Recording police interactions
- ☐ Knowing the risks involved with participating

LWVUS Protest Safety Guide

<https://lwvwi.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=28ea86dd7c46f5cfdcf3e4a00&id=10f16e8491&e=15965a7426>

Know your rights, guidance from ACLU:

Your right to protest is protected by the First Amendment. The ACLU has created a guide to help guide you in the event that you are stopped by the police. Some of the topics covered include:

- ☐ Legal protest zones
- ☐ Permit requirements
- ☐ What to do if you are detained
- ☐ Your right to film public officials

ACLU: Know Your Rights - Protesters' Rights

<https://lwvwi.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=28ea86dd7c46f5cfdcf3e4a00&id=b7050d186f&e=15965a7426>

Your voice matters – so does your safety.

Protest is a vital part of democracy, it is important to participate with preparation and knowledge. We urge you to share these resources with your networks so more people can show up strong, safe, and informed.

Here are some additional resources from our partners to help you get prepared.

Human Rights Campaign – Tips for Preparedness, Peaceful Protesting, and Safety:

<https://lwvwi.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=28ea86dd7c46f5cfdcf3e4a00&id=f641b74a5b&e=7043d919d6>



thank you



As our time co-chairing Voter Services comes to a close, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible experiences, meaningful work, and—most importantly—the amazing friendships we’ve made along the way.

Taking a leadership role has been more than just giving back; it’s been about growing and learning alongside passionate, kind, and inspiring people. The collaboration, support, and shared purpose provided fulfilling and unforgettable moments.

We invite you to serve in a leadership position. This opportunity comes with the guidance and support of a cadre of smart & thoughtful people and a chance to engage in satisfying civic work.

Though we’re stepping away from this role, we carry the memories, lessons, and connections with us. We look forward to staying in touch and cheering on the continued success of this wonderful community, LWVSCV.

With gratitude,

Patty and Rita
LWVSCV Voter Services Co-Chairs



