



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

July 1, 2025

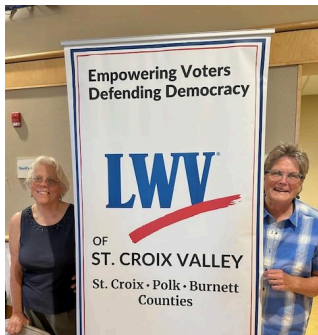
Successful Collaboration With Polk-Burnett Indivisible!

On June 29, members from both the League of Women Voters and Polk-Burnett Invisible joined together to host an event to educate the public about “Whose Rights? Our Rights!”. It was another successful example of the power of collaboration which our League chapter is embracing to amplify our voice so more people can be duly informed.



Over 60 people showed up to listen to Jeff Leys, attorney, union staff representative, and life-long activist speak to the rights instilled in the Bill of Rights, the progression of State and Federal Rights, and the current effect of the Supreme Court’s decision to limit federal judges ability to issue nation-wide injunctions.

Folks gathered at the government center in Balsam Lake (Polk County) to listen to a 90 minute presentation which included a question and answer period. Each attendee received a complimentary pocket reference “The Constitution of the United States” and “Constitution Highlights” which included the Rights that Mr Leys addressed and also a QR code to easy access of the complete online Constitution of the United States.



League members Barb Katt and Nancy Stewart, both also members of the Polk Burnett Indivisible, demonstrate that league members can be active in several non-partisan groups that advocate for informed and engaged voters.

During these critical times, all League members are encouraged to get involved in *vital issues of concern to members and the public.*



PROUD OF OUR LEAGUE!

During the Flag Day Rally in Hudson, our league set up a table and likely talked to over 100 people (we were too busy to count), offering information on issues and what the League does.

Our Board members, Beth Wood and Kathy Streitz spoke to an attentive audience. Meg Farrington also shared a heartfelt personal story. All did a wonderful job.

Kudos to Susan Bosley and Peg Wastell who represented the League so well at our table. It was also great to see an additional number of members who were there to make their voices heard. We really sensed a great appreciation of the League and what we do. We ARE making a difference!

This is just one instance of League members showing up, and I have to think that there were many other rallies attended by our members. For those of you who participated in those locations—THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Kay Brooks

Expressing support thru LWV – cookies & more!

The Saturday morning of the No Kings rally in Hudson (June 14), a young woman stopped by the LWV tent to tell us that she couldn't join the protest, as she had to work at a restaurant downtown. She had created a protest sign that she asked us to share, along with a bag of cookies.



We displayed her sign and shared the cookies with rally-goers. We remarked that she had contributed greatly to the event, while unable to attend.

The young woman mentioned that she worked at Urban Olive & Vine restaurant, so several of us decided to grab a late lunch there after the rally and were able to thank her for her amazing support.

Later the same week, we read this article in the Hudson Star Observer which shared a heartwarming story surrounding the local business owners, who have been buoyed by their young employees during the most difficult times imaginable.

https://www.hudsonstarobserver.com/how-a-staff-of-mostly-teenagers-kept-urban-olive-vine-afloat-in-the-absence-of/article_b33d00e1-ca08-4fc5-99cb-64fb6cb2f0a6.html

Along the same note, the owner of Table 65 in New Richmond (Ann Hall), also had to work during Saturday's protest. Although unable to attend herself, she gave two of her employees time off to attend and provided free coffee to anyone who stopped at the restaurant before heading to the Hudson protest.

Why are these stories important? There are myriad ways to show your support of our American Democracy, even if you are unable to attend events in-person. So let's get creative and continue to think of new ways to get involved..wherever we are!!



CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

New Richmond Fun Fest Parade—Action Item!

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. It is not necessary though! You can wear any LWV or nonpartisan apparel or pins. This will be a great event for the LWV SCV to get our message of **Unite, 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!

Ann Hall at Table 65 at 729 N. Knowles Avenue, New Richmond has graciously offered her restaurant for a meeting place prior to the parade on July 13, where we can organize, dress, decorate and hand out signs. She will also have refreshments ready for us. I will be there at 10:15 a.m. People can come when convenient and we can move together toward the parade staging spot about 11:30 a.m.

Please RSVP your intention to participate in the parade to Beth Wood by July 7!

bwood@frontiernet.net

Focus on Medicaid~ ~ ~From the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area

(LWV LaCrosse) Voter Services team seeks to help area residents understand the broad impacts expected by Congressional budget actions affecting Medicaid members and providers. The event is being designed to offer factual information and offer attendees an opportunity to share their stories and concerns. In addition, the League will offer actionable suggestions on ways the community can direct concerns to local decision makers.

Find out more about this event at [Community Forums - The League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area](https://www.lwvlacrosse.org/medicaid) <<https://www.lwvlacrosse.org/medicaid>>

Farmers Markets (June)



A few photos from Amery Market, Monday, June 23, 3:00-6:00 pm. First time at this market. We were well received. Sixty-six people came to our table. Many took flyers about the upcoming Bill of Rights workshop. Lots of kids with their parents played the Civics Game.

Staffing the booth included two new members, Angie Johnson and Colleen Kwong plus Robin Maercklein, and Irene Bugge. Kay Brooks helped with the tear down at the end of the day.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone for making this a successful event. We hope to return in July.



New Richmond Heritage Market—June 28

We had an extremely successful day at the market in New Richmond! In fact, we were so busy, we had trouble counting the number of people we interacted with. The count was around 77, but realistically we talked to over 100 market goers. I was blown away by our new members, doing this for the first time. It seemed that everyone who stopped by was a voter, but many did not know

about the SAVE Act and 5 Calls. Sandra Hohman stepped right up to the plate, offering important information, and Karen Greenberg got her phone out multiple times to demonstrate how 5 Calls works. Veteran member, Vicki Harmon, clearly explained whatever came our way and used her natural charm with future voters.

Kay Brooks

Live! The LWVSCV June Board Meeting!



On June 17, 2025, our board members, committee chairs and a few members at large, met at Champs Sports Bar in New Richmond to conduct our June business meeting and especially to honor our outgoing board members for their great service and continued efforts for our League.

All Board meetings begin with an informal, off the record, time for conversation during which we can share ideas, celebrate what is working and address concerns, and most often enjoy a few laughs.

After this essential time together, the meeting was called to order and our members recited the League oath:

"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."



After conducting the business on our June agenda we closed the meeting with a heartfelt message from both Patty Van Nevel, reflecting on her time as Voters Services co-chair with Rita Kerns, and from Beth Wood, speaking as co-president, thanking these women for their dedication and service.



(photo) Nancy Stewart (Budget Committee Chair), Patty VanNevel (Director at Large and Co-Chair Voter Services), Kate Manecke (Treasurer), and (not pictured) Rita Kearns (Director at Large and Co-Chair Voter Services)

All agreed that it is always a great experience to sit down with fellow League members whether at a coffee, a picnic, a farmers market, or a committee or business meeting. Due to the size of our League, our chapters cover Burnett, Polk and St Croix

Counties, it can be hard to get together—but it is always worth the drive. In unity we find our strength, in our diversity we find our super-power!

You can find all official meeting minutes on our website:
<<https://lwvstcroixvalley.org/241-2/scv-league-meeting-minutes/>>



The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin stands firmly in solidarity with Wisconsin's immigrant communities. Attacks on one of us is an attack on all of us. Wisconsin is stronger when our communities and families are brought together rather than divided. We must Unite & Rise to defend our democracy and stand up for the rights of ALL Wisconsinites.

What can you do? Take action and encourage your network to do the same. There are several ways in which you can safely take action to stand up in the fight against illegal arrests and the current abuse of power being enacted against immigrant families in Wisconsin.

From learning about and distributing know your rights resources to becoming an ICE presence verifier to attending rallies, find all that and more on LWVWI's website:

<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/resources-and-actions-protect-our-immigrant-communities>

PRIDE FEST!

The League of Women Voters of Croix Valley staffed a table at the third annual Hudson Valley Wide Pride Fest on Saturday, June 21 from 10:00–4:00 with 270 people



who stopped to spin the wheel and play our civics game, pick up voter information and copies of the US Constitution (and candy) and learn about the mission of the League and about our nation-wide mass mobilization campaign, Unite and Rise 8.5.

Temperatures reached 94. With high humidity, the heat index was over 100. It was as if Mother Nature was also “turning up the heat” for



democracy. The sponsors of the event regularly came by with free bottles of water and popsicles.

Our League chapter is proud to be invited back each year to participate in this energizing, fun, inclusive and family-friendly event. There were 75 vendors this year. Our table was situated near the St. Croix Valley Indivisible table and 3.5. We were thanked repeatedly for our presence and for our commitment to empowering voters and defending democracy.

The stalwart crew, divided into three shifts included: Patty VanNevel, Rita Kearns, Edna Early, Kathy Kraemer, Melissa Karl, Irene Bugge, Robin Maercklein, Jarell Kuney, Carolyn Saunders, Evanne Hunt, and Peg Wastell. And behind the scenes Kay Brooks assembled all of the display equipment and materials in advance to help make the day a huge success.



To learn more about:

Overview of Federal Actions on LGBTQIA+ Rights

<https://www.reuters.com/practical-law-the-journal/legalindustry/overview-federal-actions-lgbtqia-rights-2025-06-01/>



SIGN RALLY AND SPEAKER

July 17, 4:30 to 6 PM,
Soo Line Park,
Amery, WI

Prepare to be inspired by our Guest Speaker on local racial justice concerns!

Bring your signs and your spare change- we're going to ask you to contribute to some good trouble!

In the spirit of Congressman John Lewis, it's a day to come together to take peaceful, non-violent action to challenge injustice and create meaningful change in our community!

Organized by Polk/Burnett Indivisible and Amery Democracy Defenders



An Introduction to the LOS AMIGOS PROGRAM

Some of our members have become aware of an effort called “Los Amigos Program.”

This program supports immigrant families in our area who are food insecure and need assistance with various household items. Right now the program is working with 100+ families (800+ persons). The League of Women Voters promotes that we locally connect and partner with pro-immigrant groups by co-hosting events, fundraising, information sharing and more. The following information explains how you can support this program financially as well as with specific household items.

**Any questions? Contact Janet Ellinger (612.817.9742)
or EdnaGrotjahn Early (651.269.3408).**

1. Send checks to: St. Croix Valley Food Bank, PO Box 377, Hudson, WI 54016. Write Los Amigos Program in the memo! The preferred amount is \$25/30, (as \$25 a month can feed a family of four) with the option of making your donation recurring.
2. \$25/30 cash cards from Adli's. These individuals feel comfortable and safe going in Aldi's stores. Send Aldi's cards to Petrona Melgarejo 1093 County Road. N, Roberts, WI 54023.

3. Household items are needed. These items will change frequently:

- ☐ **FIRST!** All items must be photographed and sent to Petrona's cell: 612-655-2298.
 - ☐ **SECOND!** The items need to be delivered and your help (and/or friends) is greatly appreciated. Many of the people we serve do not have vehicles.
 - ☐ **THIRD!** Confidentially the recipient's address is sent to you if you are making the delivery.
 - ☐ **FOURTH!** Be discreet in conversations with others, respecting the privacy of the recipients.
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JULY AND AUGUST FARMERS MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

There are many more chances for us to get out the message that our democracy is in need of active *participation by all citizens*—and that voting is crucial for all to make their voices heard. It's easy. It's fun. Passers by are easily lured to our table to share information and conversation. Newbies are guaranteed to have an experienced partner and teams will have all the supplies they need. See if you can't find a few hours this month (and maybe for a few months until the markets close). Below is the information you need. Open the links to see it in calendar format. Kay Brooks is the contact: kaybrooks48@gmail.com

You pick the place and date that you think you'd like to help out and we will make it work for you. New or inexperienced members—feel free to tag along with any market team. Just show up.

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

August Calendar link for St. Croix Co.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ooWXw-KAcG084KgyPpI28viuttDBqYmAlHQ3gxjbuCU/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

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/1E2U5RxNjVtJfIK9sUPgE6biVSRu9sGjP7xQkDr apKI/edit?usp=sharing>

August Calendar link for Polk and Burnett Counties

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1lQOloYdfQMHVBUJFoa3_Z8B0g03XhA3VJ1ZxMc jtYUE/edit?gid=0#gid=0

Immediate needs that we have are: 2 additional people for the New Richmond Heritage Center Market on July 12



VOTER SERVICES STARTUP

An initial meeting for members interested in what Voter Services does and/or interested in helping will be held by Zoom on Wednesday, July 9 from 4:00-5:30.

Kathy Streitz and Kay Brooks will give an overview of what we hope to accomplish and answer questions.

A special invitation will be sent out to those who showed specific interest, but we welcome anyone—either just curious or wishing to actively get involved. Save the Zoom link below to join the meeting. Suggest you let Kay know if you intend to attend so that she can be sure you get into the meeting. There is no phone number available for this meeting. We will talk for 40 minutes and then reopen the link to go another 40 minutes:

Here is the invitation:

Kay Brooks is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Voter Services startup

Time: Jul 9, 2025 04:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82841356944?pwd=yotyp4IiIEQlMul5IEROxwGtBigqtc.1>

Meeting ID: 828 4135 6944

Passcode: 3RbeWB

Kay Brooks and Kathy Streitz

Voter Services Co-Chairs

BOOKMARK THIS!

Find out all our recent activities, check out the calendar, read archived issues of the newsletter and more: lwgstcroixvalley.org

Go to our state League website to find more information on league policy, current press releases, templates and toolkits for letters and contacting your state representative: Wisconsin | MyLO <<https://my.lwg.org/wisconsin>>

Access our National web page here: <https://www.lwg.org/>

Do you want to make your voice heard, but you're not sure what to do, say, or where to call? Get help here – calling your representative is made easy at: <https://5calls.org/>

Feeling like you need to take to the streets?! Check out Mobilize Us to find something near you! <https://www.mobilize.us/>

“LWVWI HOTLINE to verify the presence of ICE in the community or in cases of an emergency: 1-800-427-0213

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

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

LWVUS Protest Safety Guide

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

More information to help you understand the League's positions on current policies:

☐ Background on the League's position of the National Popular Vote:

<https://www.lwg.org/NPVtaskforce>

<https://my.lwg.org/connecticut/article/one-person-one-vote-national-popular-vote-int-erstate-compact>

- ☐ Are you curious about why the League supports Final Five Voting?
https://www.lwvlacrosse.org/content.aspx?page_id=5&club_id=484247&item_id=93595



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.

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>

Kathy Streitz (interim) <kfstreitz@gmail.com>

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

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

Nominations Chair Kathy Streitz <kfstreitz@gmail.com>

Roster Managers Katrina Larsen <katrina_larsen@yahoo.com>

Tami Halcomb <thalcomb@gmail.com>

Directors

Edna Early (DEI) <ed5early@gmail.com>

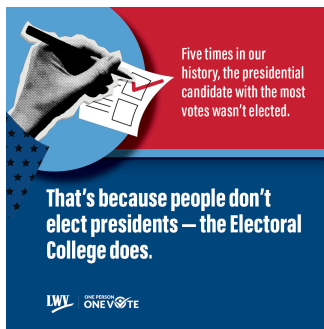
Kathy Streitz <kfstreitz@gmail.com>

Barb Katt (DEI) <barbkatt@hotmail.com>

Vicki Harmon <vickiharmon@hotmail.com>

JULY	1	Newsletter
	4	Independence Day!
	5	Farmers Market, St. Croix Falls Library, 10AM-1PM (Nannette Del Monaco)
	12	Farmers Market New Richmond Heritage Center Looking for volunteers!
	13	New Richmond Fun Fest Parade, 12 Noon-1:30 PM
	15	Newsletter
	15	Board/Committee Chairs Meeting 4PM-5PM
	17	“Good Trouble Lives On” National Day of Action Rally in Amery
	21	Amery Farmers Market 3-6PM Looking for volunteers!
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!



[The One Person One Vote Campaign | League of Women Voters](https://www.lwv.org/opov) <<https://www.lwv.org/opov>>

