



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

November 15, 2025

Summary of 2026 Planning Meeting

On November 4, nineteen LWVSCV leaders and members met over Zoom to talk about plans for 2026. Attendees - Beth Wood, Carolyn Saunders, Cindy Glocke, Irene Bugge, JJ Levy, Katrina Larsen, Kay Brooks, Kris Surbaugh, Pat Seidl, Jaye Hay, Kathy Streitz, Barb Katt, Susan Bosley, Karen Roberts, Barb Wetzel, Edna Early, Vicki Harmon, Jarell Kuney. A big thank you to all who attended.

The meeting began with an overview of 2026 Priorities (January – April, 2026). A lively discussion followed about the rollout of HUBz.

Priorities for 2026:

1. **The Unite and Rise 8.5 mass mobilization campaign** will continue to be a major focus through November, 2026. We will prioritize and amplify the messaging of Unite and Rise 8.5 at all of our events and try to incorporate the suggested action items into our daily routines. We intend to strengthen our established partnerships with nonpartisan prodemocracy groups in our communities and continue to collaborate with Los Amigos to safely provide food and other necessities to local immigrant families. Writing a Land Acknowledgement statement in collaboration with our tribal community is another DEI goal.
2. **Voter Services -- voting rights, voter engagement, education, registration and get out the vote** – will remain the other pillar of our service to the community.
 - a. **Voting Rights: Save Act.** LWVSCV has a presentation on the **Save Act** scheduled for November 10 and a **Lunch & Learn series on Voting Rights and Election Integrity** in collaboration with Frederic Library is planned for January, 2026.
 - b. **Colleges and High Schools.** Over half of the schools in our three-county area have requested services including a voter/registration/information table, online resources, bookmarks with school logo and/or a classroom presentation. There is also interest in organizing questions for our Civics Game by grade level.
 - c. **Candidate Forums and Meet & Greets.** LWVSCV is a co-sponsor (with LWVGCV) of a Dec. 6, 2025 forum with WI Supreme Court Candidates. A meeting with leaders

will be scheduled to determine our volunteer bandwidth to proceed with additional local forums during spring 2026.

3. **Leadership Review/Redesign with focus on sustainability.** A team has been doing an internal review and collecting information from other leagues about their organizational structure. The committee did complete an advisory checklist on political engagement recommendations. They plan to complete their review of our leadership structure and make recommendations that will keep our organization strong and sustainable in 2026. HUBz will be a component of the structural redesign.
4. **HUBz will expand our work and our relationships.**
 - a. Geographical groups within our LWVSCV Chapter. We plan to empower HUB members to take on League work and lead in each area.
 - b. We have point people and support people who have volunteered in each HUB and this will grow.
 - c. HUBz will be used for Coffees, postcard writing, finding liaisons, and volunteers for our work with high schools, libraries, and events. Communication, distribution, new initiatives, all implemented more locally.
 - d. Supplies: We will split up our supplies between the 4 HUBz for easier access and distribution.
 - e. Boundaries between HUBz can be crossed and HUBz will support each other when needed as we do now across our three counties.
 - f. Hubz will have email groups, phone trees and text threads. These will be created by each HUB group.
 - g. We anticipate support from each HUB for all of our work in Voter Services and our League endeavors.
 - h. We are planning monthly HUB/Voter Services/Member Services Zoom meetings and would like to hear from the HUBz at each board meeting if needed.
 - i. **All in process and open for ideas and growth.**

The 2026 Calendar was briefly discussed. All members were encouraged to SAVE THE DATE for two all member in-person meetings:

- January 11: Winter Gathering/January Jumpstart, 1:30 pm at the Amery Area Community Center. (Contact irenebugge@gmail.com if interested in volunteering to help with this event)
- April 26: LWVSCV Annual Meeting at 2:00 pm at the Amery Area Community Center.

Two educational events offered in January were also highlighted:

- The Lunch and Learn Series on Voting Rights/Election Integrity cosponsored with Frederic Library. (Community and Member Education). Tuesdays in January from 11:30–12:30. Details in the next newsletter.
- January 17: Adapting Deep Canvassing Principles for League Work, 10:00 am -12:00 pm Osceola. (Member Education). Details in upcoming newsletters.

Next Board Meeting: Dec. 16, 2025 4:00 – 5:00 pm via Zoom

Open invitation, especially to members who have not served on our Board, to attend one or more monthly Board Meetings as a way to learn more about our chapter. Contact Kris Surbaugh (aksurbaugh@gmail.com) for a zoom link.

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

Blankets are urgently needed by many of our immigrant neighbors. To provide adequate and healthy blankets to them, we are asking for donations of new blankets.

The families' requests are for queen or twin size blankets. Only new and machine washable blankets will be accepted. There are about 150 families needing blankets, so this is a big ask.

The families are located throughout the three county area, so we would like to receive the blankets by **December 1** in order to coordinate distribution with the monthly food bank distribution.

If you can help with this urgent need, please drop off blankets at

**84 County Road T, Hammond,
or text Denise Flaherty for pick up at 651 253 8880 before December 1.**

Thank you for your generosity and for considering helping with this urgent opportunity.

Denise



VOTERS SERVICES

HIGH SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Getting young kids engaged in voting in an informed way is crucial to preserving our democracy.

Voter/Member Services is reaching out to the high schools in our three counties to offer information on voter registration and upcoming elections. Many thanks to members Kathy Kraemer and Janet Anderson for

helping with this project! Several high schools have shown interest and we are waiting to hear back from others.

We will be looking for volunteers from each HUB to set up a table at each one of them in the spring. This will be similar to having a table at farmers markets and other events, except with the great enthusiasm of high school kids. Separately, we also will be gathering resources that we can provide for teachers regarding election integrity, mis- and disinformation, and finding reliable news sources. Karen Roberts has agreed to do this. She could use some help.

Contact Kay Brooks if you are interested in finding (already created) resources for teachers or being part of a team to talk with 18 year olds about voter registration.

Kay Brooks kaybrooks48@gmail.com

VOTER/MEMBER SERVICES + Hubz NOVEMBER ZOOM MEETING

The November VS/M meeting will be held by Zoom on Thursday, November 20. We are asking HUB leadership people to attend, as we will be talking about upcoming events and projects. This will also give us a chance for members who attend to see how the new HUB structure will work and to ask questions. The planned time is 1 hour, but can be longer for those who want to talk longer. We are looking forward to seeing members from any of the 4 HUBz!

Kay (and Kathy) 715-381-8879 (Kay's cell)

Kay Brooks kayabrooks48@gmail.com Kathy Streitz kfstreitz@gmail.com

Kris Surbaugh is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: VS/M+H Nov Meeting

Time: Nov 20, 2025 04:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86731946130?pwd=HjGDb2Sy8TUgXVNUf09UzoSmxN2Mjl.1>

Meeting ID: 867 3194 6130

Passcode: 414000

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,86731946130#,,, *414000# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,86731946130#,,, *414000# US

Join instructions

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/86731946130?signature=4lVeCXA-spRXOL74stnoAs0CpvLXwZs1hxMQ6o1JYlq>

Election Issues Are Everyone's Issues!



Fifty-one people attended a fascinating presentation on “Election Issues are Everyone’s Issues” by attorney and Hudson chief election inspector, Karry Weaver. Karrie addressed issues related to the SAVE Act, the data on non-citizens voting (non-citizens voting is already illegal in the US and in WI and is practically nonexistent), and voting issues related to the November 2024 constitutional amendment in Wisconsin.

A number of municipal clerks and poll workers along with League members and the general public attended. The recorded presentation will soon be available on the LWV St. Croix Valley website <<https://lwwstcroixvalley.org/>>

This presentation is the first event generously funded by the 100 Women Who Care Polk/Burnett (Home) grant of \$2,800. Additional events are being planned including a series of lunch and learn presentations in collaboration with the Frederic Public Library for the four Tuesdays in January 2026.

Member Services

Hello to you all! Please Welcome these new members:

- **Nancy Kolb.** Nancy lives in Webster and here is her email address, nabjerkolb@msn.com.

Please reach out and welcome Nancy!

- **Trudy Lorenz.** Trudy lives in Osceola and here is her email. trudylorenz@gmail.com

Please reach out and welcome Trudy!

- **Karrie Weaver.** Karrie lives in Hudson and here is her email. karrie@weaveriplaw

Please reach out and welcome our new members as we empower voters and defend democracy! 🇺🇸



COFFEE TIME!

All members and friends are welcome to our

- ☐ HUDSON COFFEE on
- ☐ Monday, November 17, 10:00 – 12:00 noon,
- ☐ at the Hudson Library.

I am excited for us to gather, socialize, and write postcards to Wisconsin Voters. I look forward to seeing you then!
We are strongest together!

Please RSVP if you haven't already.

Kathy Streitz

kfstreitz@gmail.com

HUB 3 COFFEE FOR MEMBERS IN NEW RICHMOND, STAR PRAIRIE, DEER PARK, AND MORE!

Anyone is welcome to attend a coffee held for HUB 3 members at the Somerset Library on **Tuesday, December 4 at 2:00 PM.** We will be writing postcards emphasizing the importance of voting in local elections (in February and April). BYO beverage. Snacks will be available.

DATE: Tuesday, Dec. 4

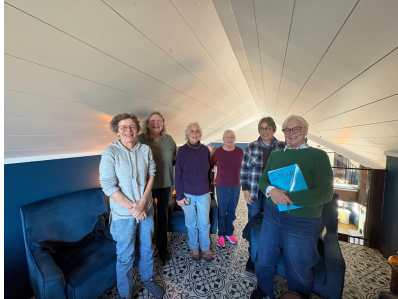
TIME: 2:00

PLACE: Somerset Library, [208 Hud St.](#), Somerset

Your hostesses: Kay Brooks, Karen Greenberg, and Kathy Kraemer

Members of Hub#1 Met for Coffee!

Seven League members from northern Polk and Burnett county gathered for their first official Hub coffee at the Chattering Squirrel cafe in Siren on Wednesday, November 12.



Our meeting was a fun get-together where we took the time to share experiences that helped us get reacquainted with old friendships and build some new ones.

We learned from each member about actions they are taking in their own communities in a variety of ways that ultimately build strength in our democracy. We know that a true democracy begins with each of us doing our part.

Ideas and information was shared that will help us refine what strengths each member can bring to our group.

We find that by gathering together, we grow hope and strength as we broaden our awareness of the unique ways each individual contributes to the greater good.

(Members in photo: Kathy S., Marie E., Barb K., Pam G., Cheryl R., and Kris S. Photo by Nancy S.)

(note from Kris Surbaugh) During our coffee today, I encouraged folks to consider signing this pledge. It seems to be what most of us are already doing, but by adding your name you add one more voice--your voice--to the power of the people.

It is totally up to you--thanks for considering it!

I took an action on the **Action Network** called **Unite & Rise 8.5 Commitment Form**.

I commit to Unite and Rise in the Fight for Democracy with LWVWI! The United States is in a constitutional crisis. Now is the time to band together to defend our constitution, protect the rule of law, demand the preservation of checks and balances, safeguard the right to vote, and build a democracy where every person and every voice counts.

I commit to:

- Take action by voting and volunteering to ensure our freedom to vote is protected.
- Mobilize in nonviolent efforts to hold (our) government accountable.
- Stay informed about the policies and decisions that affect us all, combat disinformation, and amplify the voices and stories of those most impacted.

The League of Women Voters' Unite & Rise 8.5 initiative aims to mobilize 8.5 million voters using the power of voter engagement as a cornerstone of our democracy. Unite & Rise 8.5 showcases the many ways voters can drive change through advocacy, mobilization, civic education, and engagement. We need you to be a part of this movement and help us grow this network of 8.5 million people who commit to defend our democracy.

Can you join me and take action? Click here:

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/unite-rise-85-commitment-form?source=email&>

SAVE THE DATE EVENT: Mark your calendar:

Know Your WI Supreme Court Candidates

Interview with candidate Chris Taylor, Saturday, December 6, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Interview with candidate Maria Lazar, Tuesday, February 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Where (both events): Harvey Hall Theater,

[721 Third Street East, Menomonie, WI 54751.](#)

If other candidates come forward, they will be invited to be interviewed. This event is brought to you by the League of Women Voters of the Greater Chippewa Valley and the Menard Center for the Study of Institutions and Innovation at UW-Stout, with Community Conversations of NW Wisconsin and the League of Women Voters of the St. Croix Valley. And thank you to cooperating organizations AAUW Eau Claire, and the Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce. There is no fee to attend. Registration and other details to follow.

Give Them Their Flowers: A Trans Community Gathering



TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

*Give them
their flowers*

A Trans Community Gathering

Virtual Event | 6:00 - 7:00 PM EST

Logos of partner organizations: A4TE ADVOCATES FOR TRANS EQUALITY, Transgender Law Center, Keshet קשת For LGBTQ+ Jewish Life, glad, HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN, and equalityfederation.

Thursday, November 20, 2025

To learn more about this event go to:

<https://action.transequality.org/a/tdor-gathering>

Important Dates!

November	15	Newsletter
	17	Coffee in Hudson! Hudson Library 10AM-12noon
	20	Voters Services Zoom 4-5PM
	20	Trans Day of Remembrance
December	1	Newsletter
	4	Hub 3 Coffee Somerset Library
	6	Wisconsin Supreme Court Candidate Interview Menomonie 1PM
	15	Newsletter
	16	Board/Committee Chairs Meeting, 4-5p via Zoom
		Happy Holidays to all faiths and cultures

2026

Month	Day	Tasks/Meetings/Events
January		<i>Lunch and Learn Events at Frederic Public Library~ Tuesdays 11:30–12:30</i>
	6	Lunch and Learn with Dr. Neil Kraus UWRF
	11	Winter Gathering: Amery Community Center!
	13	Lunch and Learn with Nicole Gabrail
	17	Adapting Deep Canvassing Principles for League Work – 10:00–12:00 JJ Levy and Saul Hopper's home, Osceola
	18	Snow date for Winter Gathering
	20	Lunch and Learn: Election Issues are Everyone's Issues (recording)
	27	Lunch and Learn: with Polk County Clerk Shabana Lundeen
February	1	Newsletter
	4	Interview with Candidate Maria Lazar 4PM Menomonie



Our Voice is Our Power

Do you enjoy this newsletter? Do you have suggestions? Would you like to assist with any part of getting our message out to the public? There is room for all levels of involvement. If you are interested– email me at [<aksurbaugh@gmail.com>](mailto:aksurbaugh@gmail.com) to set up a phone call or zoom.

LWV SCV Leadership Team 2025– 2026

Co-Presidents Irene Bugge [<irenebugge@gmail.com>](mailto:irenebugge@gmail.com)

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