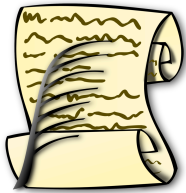




**OUR MISSION:** *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

December 15, 2025

## December 15 is Bill of Rights Day!



*We are sharing some words from the LWV-GCV that reflect on the importance of this day and that guide our work as we move Forward Together!*

**Now more than ever, it's time to rise up and celebrate our individual rights!**

Adopted in 1791, the Bill of Rights was created to safeguard liberties in the newly formed United States. Our founders recognized the importance of protecting personal freedoms in the face of a strong federal government — a principle that remains vital today.

Every day, we benefit from these enduring protections:

- Thanks to the freedom of the press, we can read a variety of news articles and opinions, as well as publish our own thoughts.
- Thanks to the freedom of assembly and petition, we can join fellow citizens in protest or peaceful assembly – practices that are critical to a healthy democracy.
- Thanks to the freedom of speech, we can speak our minds freely without the fear of government persecution or intimidation.
- Thanks to the right against unreasonable searches and seizures, we are free from unreasonable government intrusion.
- Thanks to the right to a speedy and public trial, we are protected against unfair legal treatment.

**The League encourages all who value democracy and civil rights to Unite & Rise with us as we reflect on the lasting significance of the Bill of Rights.**



## Member Services

Please welcome our newest members:  
Nancy Vanasse and Catherine Boehm.

- ☐ Nancy's email is [nvanasse@somtel.net](mailto:nvanasse@somtel.net) and she lives in Somerset.
- ☐ Catherine's email is [dj-ceboehm@msn.net](mailto:dj-ceboehm@msn.net) and she lives in Hudson.

Please reach out to Nancy and Catherine with a warm, hardy welcome!

We invite you both, and all our current members, to our Winter Gathering in Amery on January 11th. Please see the notice attached to this newsletter.

The Winter gathering is our annual social and we look forward to celebrating each other and looking ahead to the new year! We are so glad you found us! Nancy and Catherine and we look forward to meeting you both!

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## VOTER SERVICES NEWS

**WHAT'S AHEAD:** HUB ownership is coming soon as we move from a Voter Services Committee Model to a HUB-centered model with support from Voter Services. More on the transition will be discussed in the next newsletter.

### HIGH SCHOOL HELP

HUBz will be deciding just how they would like to work with their local high schools. Besides offering customized school bookmarks, voter registration and election information online resources are being developed by Voter Services and will be sent to HUB leaders. They can decide just what they would like to email to their participating high schools.

Additionally, there are many high schools that would welcome a team of League members to set up a table of voting and election information during a lunch hour. During that time, students will be able to play the wheel game and pick up small prizes for their participation. We suggest that if HUBs are going to do it, they do it before the spring election on April 7. We have many members who have done tabling events like this at farmers markets and other events. This experience would be the same, except it would be for a shorter period of time and would be even more fun. High school kids love our visits! Talk it over with your HUB.



**MONARCA**

**UPSTANDER TRAINING | HUDSON**  
**TOGETHER WE KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE**  
 Thursday, January 8, 2026 6:30 PM

Every family deserves safety, dignity, and the peace of going to work or school without fear. But a group of politicians are pushing policies meant to divide us. They are relying on intimidation and raids that tear families apart and weaken whole neighborhoods.

- Learn practical skills to keep families safe
- Become part of a people-powered rapid response network
- Stand with neighbors so no one faces intimidation alone

We're coming together across race and background to **protect one another, build people-powered safety**, and make sure **no one** faces this alone.

**Register to attend our Hudson training—location details provided in registration.**

**UNIDOS MN**  
 COMMUNITY • LEADERSHIP • POWER

**REGISTER HERE**



[bit.ly/RRHUD0108](https://bit.ly/RRHUD0108)

## Upstander Training

in Hudson, WI  
 Thursday, January 8  
 6:30 – 8:30 pm

People are welcome to drop by at 6pm or stay after the session. We've printed whistles, we're making zines, and there will be cookies and opportunities to engage in other direct immigrant aid opportunities.

We ask people to only mention Hudson in their social posts and use the attached graphic to prevent the location from showing up in the link preview. Registration link:

[https://secure.ngpvan.com/-zx\\_0JtA-0-CmYRoNvXQog2](https://secure.ngpvan.com/-zx_0JtA-0-CmYRoNvXQog2)

**LEAGUE CALLS ON  
 VOTERS TO  
 OPPOSE SENATE BILL 553**



**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
 OF WISCONSIN

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin OPPOSES the upcoming passage of [Senate Bill 553](#) in the Assembly which already passed in the Senate on November 18, 2025.

This bill proposes changes in the definition of abortion by specifying certain medical procedures that would not be classified as an

abortion. While this bill gives the impression of removing the possible stigma of certain abortion procedures; the bill, in fact, will constrain the care provided by physicians. Since there are many medical procedures that are not named in the bill, this will restrict physicians from providing the time-sensitive, lifesaving care a pregnant patient might need. Since

abortion is currently legal up to 20 weeks, this bill seems to signal future action by the Wisconsin Legislature to pursue a total ban on abortion or further restrictions on current law.

We are asking voters to call their legislators today to urge their Assembly Representatives vote to OPPOSE SB553. The LWVUS has held the position of the individual's right to privacy in making reproductive health decisions, inclusive of abortion, since 1983. This bill attempts to dictate the care a physician can provide and potentially interfere with the doctor-patient relationship. Find your legislators:

<https://lwvwi.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=28ea86dd7c46f5cfdcf3e4a00&id=3d20718fbb&e=7043d919d6>

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## HUB NEWS



### Lunch and Learn

#### **Hub #1 has organized a *Lunch and Learn* at the Frederic Library.**

The LWVSCV is partnering with the Frederic Public Library to bring these educational topics free to the

public. Inspired by this format, Hub #1 members in the Webster/Siren area are collaborating with Ann Taylor, a representative of Polk/Burnett Indivisible and One Million Rising to bring speakers to the Larsen Family Library in Webster in February. Look for more information about these events in future newsletters.

In the meantime, we would appreciate members' help getting the word out to friends, family, and neighbors who may be interested in learning more about these topics presented at the Frederic Library. A copy of the informational poster is attached to this newsletter's email—feel free to print/share widely!

***Warm up in January with free soup while you relax and enjoy talks by these guest speakers on these timely topics:***

**January 6** Dr. Neil Kraus, Professor of Political Science University of Wisconsin, River Falls,  
"How is our democracy and rule of law being eroded by current events?"

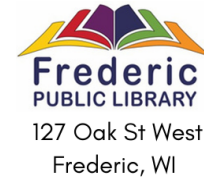
**January 13** Nikki Gabrail Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition  
"How can we secure Fair Maps in Wisconsin?"

**January 20** Kathy Straits and Katrina Larsen, co-hosts, League of Women Voters St Croix Valley  
"How does new legislation actually suppress voter access?" a recorded presentation by Karrie Weaver Attorney and Chief Elections Inspector, Hudson, Wi.

January 27 Shabana Lundeen Polk County Clerk  
"How secure are our local elections?"

Tuesdays throughout January 11:30-12:30

Thank you to the Frederic Public Library!



Quick reminder: To learn more about the League and to find back issues of the LWVSCV Newsletters go to <https://lwwstcroixvalley.org/> home page → click on **About Us** → and open the menu.

Or use this shortcut link:

<https://lwwstcroixvalley.org/241-2/newsletters/>

Also, all board meeting minutes are also under **About Us**.

<https://lwwstcroixvalley.org/241-2/scv-league-meeting-minutes/>

## Help Us Amplify!

Please bookmark the LWV St. Croix Valley site <<https://lwwstcroixvalley.org/>> .

- ☐ Keep refreshing it, leaving and coming back to it.
- ☐ This small set of actions will help us move up in search engines like Google, Safari, Edge, Foxfire, etc. Thanks!

## When it is time to renew...

Go to **Join Us!** <https://lwwstcroixvalley.org/> You can renew (or join) online via credit card or PayPal or by mailing a [2025 Membership Application Form](#).

## HUB 2 NEWS

### Festive “Hubbing” and Postcard Writing Event



Five intrepid women, undaunted by half a foot of freshly fallen snow, gathered at Angie Johnson’s beautiful home in Amery (HUB 2) on December 10 to build community and write on *Your Vote Matters!* post cards.

LWV SCV members attending included: Pat Seidl, Colleen Kwong, Irene Bugge and of course the hostess, Angie Johnson. Angie invited a friend, Deb Trauley, who recently moved back to the area. Deb was interested in learning more about the League of Women Voters. Her curiosity provided an opportunity for everyone present to talk about their experiences in the League.



Gathered around a kitchen table, not unlike the first gathering in Burnett County when our chapter was formed, these women talked and laughed and shared. And of course there were holiday treats galore.

Fifty *Your Vote Matters!* postcards are ready to be mailed after the first of the year, thanks to their collective efforts.

Fifty more will be completed at an early January post carding event in the St. Croix Falls – Osceola area, organized by Nanette Del Monaco.



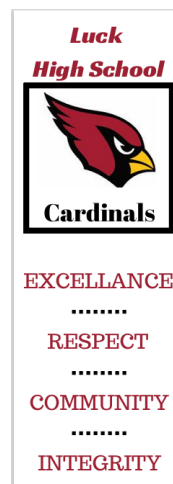
## HUB 3 NEWS

Hello from HUB 3! We had a great turn-out for our December coffee get-together. Over 10 members met at the Somerset Library on Tuesday, Dec. 2. We were happy to meet new member, Nancy Vanasse, and Susan Sroka, who is seriously considering joining. We shared great conversation, including an explanation by Karen Roberts of the power point on Election Integrity that she is developing. We are excited about its possibilities both within and external to our League.

In the time that was left, we prepared and wrote postcards, encouraging qualified people to register to vote. Thanks, everyone!

Stay tuned for the next coffee to be held in January of 2026! We will also have a Zoom meeting for our HUB 3, but it will also wait until after the Holidays.

## BOOKMARKS



This year most high schools in our League area would like to work with us in some way or other. One of the offers that we have made is to create and print bookmarks with each school's logo and slogan on the front.

On the back is the QR code for the state election website, [MyVote.wi.gov](https://MyVote.wi.gov), as well as the three ways of voting in the state of Wisconsin.

Kathie Nelson has created designs for high schools that have not previously requested bookmarks from us. As always, she does a stellar job! As bookmarks are completed, they will be delivered to the appropriate HUB to deliver to each high school.



## TABLING SUPPLIES

Many members have helped to distribute voter registration and election information at farmers' markets, high schools, and other events. Those supplies have been stored mostly in one place for the last few years. At times, it has been a challenge to move things around in time, to meet all needs. As a result, it has been decided to divide the majority of the supplies between the 4 HUBs. Less important supplies, or those limited in quantity, will continue to be stored with Kay Brooks. Many thanks to Kathy Kraemer and Karen Greenberg for helping to make this move happen. These supplies will be in the hands of HUB leaders in January.

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**Did you know that \$35 a month can feed a family of four through the Los Amigos Program (LAP)?**

**Want to help? Donate today!**

**Send a check to:**  
All Saints Lutheran Church  
8100 Belden Blvd.  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016  
*In the Memo Line Los Amigos Program*

**Or donate online at:**  
[onrealm.org/AllSaintsLuther82984/give/LAP](http://onrealm.org/AllSaintsLuther82984/give/LAP)



Choose a one-time or recurring donation  
*All Saints Lutheran Church is a charitable organization  
All donations are tax-deductible*

**LAP Mission Statement:**  
The LAP provides humanitarian assistance and support to vulnerable families through a compassionate and kind community of volunteers and donors. The LAP builds a caring community that supports its neighbors and offers meaningful opportunities for volunteers and donors to engage in a multicultural exchange of values grounded in **inclusion, empowerment, and humanity.**

**Questions? Contact:** Petrona Melgarejo 612-655-2298  
[pm992@yahoo.com](mailto:pm992@yahoo.com) | [foodaidpiercestcroix@gmail.com](mailto:foodaidpiercestcroix@gmail.com)

## What is the Los Amigos Program (LAP)

### LAP Is a Fact-Data-Price Driven, Mission Driven Program

In LAP, we conduct surveys to find out what our family's needs are.

**100% of your donation goes directly to immigrant families in need.** No overhead, No hidden costs, just compassion, transparency, and impact.

With careful stewardship and price comparisons on every purchase, we stretch every dollar to achieve the **greatest possible impact**. Together, our generous community ensures families receive the support they truly need.

LAP is a **Community Powered** by Compassionate, Caring, and Generous community members who sustain the program.

Our **Fiscal Sponsor** manages and controls all spending, maintaining receipts in full compliance with IRS requirements as a registered **501(c)(3)**.

With **Ethical & Legal Commitment**, LAP is obligated to maintain transparency, keep detailed financial records, and ensure that funds are spent only on items that directly meet family needs.

In LAP, we maximize the impact of every donation through **efficiency**, careful management, and **tangible results**.

**Guiding Principles:** Help where needed, Non-political, Non religious, Provide volunteer opportunities, Serve all families, no one is turned away.



## START TIME CHANGE

The start time for the Winter Gathering on Sunday, January 11, 2026 at the Amery Area Community Center, 608 Harriman Avenue, Amery, WI is

**CHANGED TO 1:00 PM.**

Members and their guests are invited to gather at 1:00 pm at the Amery Area Community Center to socialize and enjoy a beverage.

The program will begin at 1:30 pm.

We are also thrilled to announce that League member Karen Roberts will be our guest speaker. She will share a presentation on Election Integrity that she is developing for high schools.

Please put this date and time change on your 2026 calendar and RSVP to [kfstreitz@gmail.com](mailto:kfstreitz@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you on January 11, 2026 at 1:00 pm!



- ★ RECORDING: [The Crisis in Our Executive Branch with Lauren Miller Karalunas](#)
- ★ RECORDING: [The Crisis in Our Legislative Branch with Eleanor Neff Powell + "Wellness First Aid" with Carmen Fontanez and Lexy Lunger](#)
- ★ RECORDING: [The Crisis in our Judicial Branch with Stephen Vladeck](#)

Did you miss the

**2025 Jane Kirschenheiter  
Zimmerman LWVWI Issues  
Briefing?**

Go to [my.lwv.org/wisconsin](https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin) and click on the links to catch up on this important informational recording.



## Calendar of Events:

|          |    |   |
|----------|----|---|
| December |    | <i>Happy Holidays to all faiths and cultures who celebrate this time of year.</i> |
|          | 15 | Newsletter  |
|          | 16 | Board/Committee Chairs Meeting, 4-5p via Zoom                                     |
|          |    | Happy Holidays to all faiths and cultures who celebrate this time of year.        |
|          | 21 | Happy Winter Solstice—the days are getting longer!!!                              |

2026

| Month    | Day       | Tasks/Meetings/Events   |
|----------|-----------|---|
| January  |           | <b><i>Lunch and Learn Events at Frederic Public Library~ Tuesdays 11:30–12:30</i></b>   |
|          | 1         | Newsletter  |
|          | 6         | Lunch and Learn with Dr. Neil Kraus UWRF  |
|          | 6         | Last day for local candidates to submit paperwork to run for office. Races are for county supervisor, school board, or various other municipal positions. |
|          | 8         | UPSTANDER TRAINING Hudson 6:30 to 8:30  |
|          | <b>11</b> | <b>Winter Gathering: Amery Community Center! 1PM Start time!</b>  |
|          | 13        | Lunch and Learn with Nicole Gabrail   |
|          | 15        | Newsletter  |
|          | 18        | Snow date for Winter Gathering  |
|          | 20        | Lunch and Learn: Election Issues are Everyone's Issues (recording)  |
|          | 24        | Adapting Deep Canvassing Principles for League Work – 10:00–12:00 JJ Levy and Saul Hopper's home, Osceola   |
|          | 27        | Lunch and Learn: with Polk County Clerk Shabana Lundeen   |
| February | 1         | Newsletter  |
|          | 4         | Interview with Candidate Maria Lazar 4PM Menomonie  |
|          | 15        | Newsletter  |
|          | 17        | Spring Primary  |

|          |    |                         |
|----------|----|-------------------------|
| March    | 1  | Newsletter              |
|          | 15 | Newsletter              |
| April    | 7  | Spring General Election |
| August   | 11 | Primary                 |
| November | 3  | General Election        |

## 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](mailto:kaybrooks48@gmail.com)  
Kathy Streitz (interim) <kfstreitz@gmail.com>

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

**Budget Chair** Janet Lestock <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>