



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

January 1, 2026 250 Years of Democracy! Let's keep it going!



**Coffee and Conversation:**  
***Adapting Deep Canvassing Principles for League Work***

The League is offering another chance to dive into Deep Canvassing (DC)—thanks to all the enthusiasm after our August coffee at JJ Levy's home in Osceola. We'll gather again at JJ's on Saturday, January 24th, from 10 a.m. to noon. (Please note that this is a date change. This coffee was originally scheduled for Jan. 17).

Whether or not you came to the first one, you're warmly invited to join us.

Deep Canvassing dovetails with the League's goals—as it is about connecting emotionally with voters. It helps us:

- ☐ Build genuine emotional connections with potential voters.
- ☐ Inspire people to vote for reasons that matter to them.
- ☐ Feel more confident (and less tongue-tied!) in conversations.
- ☐ Or, as The Power of One puts it: "Mix the head with the heart, you're ahead from the start."

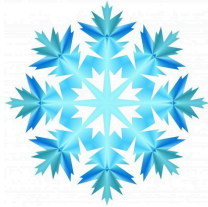
***Hope to see you there for coffee and conversation!***

JJ Levy  
jjlevy1@mac.com  
970 493 8780

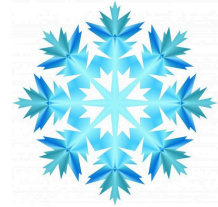


**HUB 1 News:**

Three members from Hub #1 (plus a GROWW member) joined forces on December 19 and filled out 100 Your Vote Matters! Postcards in less than two hours. Caffeine may have been involved. It's an easy and fun thing to do! Contact Kathy Streitz <[kfstreitz@gmail.com](mailto:kfstreitz@gmail.com)> to find out more!



**WINTER GATHERING/  
JANUARY JUMPSTART**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026**  
**1:00 pm to 3:30 pm**



We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, January 11, for LWVSCV's annual **Winter Gathering and January Jumpstart**. 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.

League member Karen Roberts will be our guest speaker. She will share a presentation on Election Integrity that she is developing for high schools. There will also be ample time to meet new members or reconnect with seasoned members and learn about LWVSCV's plans for 2026!

Please put Sunday, January 11 at 1:00 pm on your 2026 calendar and RSVP to [kfstreitz@gmail.com](mailto:kfstreitz@gmail.com) today. Invite a friend. Reach out to members in your HUB to carpool. If you can, bring an appetizer to share. Let's get a jumpstart on election year 2026 together!



## UNITE RISE 8.5

As we move into the new year our Unite Rise 8.5 focus is on our partnerships, collaborations and outreach. You will find attached to the body of the email is the January 2026 Unite Rise calendar.

As a league we have the opportunity to attend a Monarca training in Hudson on January 8 (see information later in this newsletter) in collaboration with Project 3.5. and UNIDOS MN.

Democracy is not just defended at the ballot box, it is built through consistent, intentional actions that inspire others and grow our movement.

### Easy things to do –

- ☐ share our social media,
- ☐ encourage anyone with interest in the league to check our website (<https://lwwstcroixvalley.org/>),
- ☐ as members please engage with our website to boost our visibility.
- ☐ Forward our newsletter to interested friends and family.

The more you “wear” your league membership the more comfortable it becomes, the easier it will be to engage in conversation, answer questions and encourage people to vote.

I want to thank ALL of you for your continued commitment to our league, to our mission and to each other.

Forward together  
Beth Wood  
(Unite Rise team leader)

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## HUB 3 NEWS

### COFFEE IN ROBERTS

Ready for some fellowship? Let’s energize and strategize! Other HUBz are welcome, as are friends or people interested in the League. Here are the details:

DATE: Thursday, January 15

TIME: 1:00-2:30 pM

PLACE: The Barnboard Grill & Saloon (back room), 517 Cherry Ln., Roberts, WI

AVAILABLE: a variety of beverages, lunch items, appetizers, desserts

No RSVP needed, but if you know you are coming, let me know. It helps the restaurant. If you are planning to order lunch, that information also would be appreciated.

Kay, Kathy K, and Karen G.

Contact: [Kaybrooks48@gmail.com](mailto:Kaybrooks48@gmail.com)

**POSTCARDS:** We will be putting the VOTE postcards we wrote in the mail. They hopefully will encourage non-voters to become voters in time for the Spring Elections. Our December coffee group wrote 75 postcards at our last session. We will finish the last 25 at our January coffee! 😊



*Elves Kathy Kraemer, Karen Greenberg, and Kay Brooks split up League supplies between our 4 HUBz. Hub leaders have access to their own collection to help facilitate local actions at schools, farmers markets and other festivals.*

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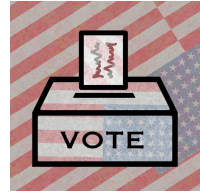
Update from Voter Services

**WHAT'S AHEAD? ELECTION SEASON HAS ARRIVED!**

**SPRING PRIMARY Tuesday, Feb. 17**

Spring elections focus on local positions: school board members, county board supervisors, municipal positions (ex. mayor). This spring there will also be a race for a State Supreme Court Justice. You may have a Spring **Primary** in your area IF there are more than 2 candidates running. The Spring General Election will be on April 7.

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## 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.

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## YARD SIGNS

We are in the process of ordering VOTE TUESDAY yard signs.

←They will look something like this one.

Only they will be poly bag like this→



If you are interested in a poly bag VOTE TUESDAY yard sign, please let Katrina Larsen, [Katrina.larsen@yahoo.com](mailto:Katrina.larsen@yahoo.com), know. Many of you have U stands as shown in the picture. If you don't, let Katrina know and she will get a U stand for you.

We are also polling members to see if they are interested in other yard signs. Depending on the response, additional signs may be ordered if the budget allows. Additional sign options include:

- ☐ VOTE FROM HOME,
- ☐ THANK ELECTION WORKERS,
- ☐ Ojibwe language VOTE and
- ☐ Spanish language VOTA.

Let Katrina know if you have interest in getting other signs. Thank you.



## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Please work with your HUB leader to gather information about who is running for office or if there will be a referendum on your ballot. This information isn't widely publicly shared, so we would like to post it on our website. Candidates are required to have their paperwork in by January 6.

We are also looking for members to set up a voter registration/election information table at participating high schools. If you are interested, let your HUB leader know. **If you don't know who your HUB leader is, contact me at [kaybrooks48@gmail.com](mailto:kaybrooks48@gmail.com) and I will connect you.**

### **Putting Up and Taking Down Yard Signs for Spring Elections**

#### **Spring Primary**

Put out VOTE FROM HOME by January 15, 2026

Take in VOTE FROM HOME on Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Put out VOTE TUESDAY on Wednesday, February 11, 2026

#### **Spring Primary Election on Tuesday, February 17, 2026**

Take in VOTE TUESDAY on Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Put out THANK ELECTION WORKERS on Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Take in THANK ELECTION WORKERS on Wednesday, February 25, 2026

#### **Spring Election**

Put out VOTE FROM HOME on Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Take in VOTE FROM HOME on Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Put out VOTE TUESDAY on Wednesday, April 1, 2026

#### **Spring Election on Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

Take in VOTE TUESDAY on Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Put out THANK ELECTION WORKERS on Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Take in THANK ELECTION WORKERS on Wednesday, April 15, 2026





**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**

## 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\\_0ItA-0-CmYRoNvXQog2](https://secure.ngpvan.com/-zx_0ItA-0-CmYRoNvXQog2)



## Member Services

### *Membership Matters: Growing Stronger, Together*

Happy New Year to you all! We value our members and appreciate everything you do to educate and advocate for democracy!

As of this newsletter's publication, LWVSCV proudly counts 110 members. Most are active at this time. We anticipate continued growth in the coming new year, fueled by a vibrant calendar of programs, events, and voter registrations initiatives -- both online and throughout the region -- as well as expanding partnerships with local organizations. **Bring a friend to our Winter Gathering on January 11!** 🧑🏻

## HUB 4 News

The purpose of each HUB is to empower each member and work in smaller local groups to educate voters, and support democracy.

We have members in Baldwin, Hammond, River Falls, Prescott, Hudson, North Hudson, and the Town of Hudson.

Happy New Year as we move into 2026 with hope and determination to educate and advocate for democracy!

Hello to our 35 members in St. Croix County!

## HUB 4 Coffee

Our next HUB Coffee will be at 10:30, Saturday, February 7th at the Baldwin Perk LLC. The address is 860 Main St. in Baldwin. Please join us to socialize and support each other. We plan to finish writing and mail VOTER postcards. Bring a friend and all are welcome! Do take time to check on your neighbors and take care of yourselves. We are all in this together! Forward!

Kathy Streitz

Hudson

612-916-8856

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 your membership...**

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](#).

2026

Month	Day	Tasks/Meetings/Events
January-March		<b><i>High school visits as planned by individual HUBs.</i></b>
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
	9	<i>Carrie Chapman Catt's birthday (Catt was the founder of the League of Women Voters)</i>
	11	<b>Winter Gathering: Amery Community Center! 1PM Start time!</b>
	13	Lunch and Learn with Nicole Gabrail
	15	Newsletter
	15	Put out VOTE FROM HOME signs
	15	HUB 3 coffee 2:00 at The Barnboard in Roberts. All are welcome!
	18	Snow date for Winter Gathering
	20	Lunch and Learn: Election Issues are Everyone's Issues (recording)
	20	Board Zoom
	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



	11	Take in VOTE FROM HOME signs Put out VOTE TUESDAY signs
	15	Newsletter
	17	<b><u>Spring Primary</u></b>
	18	Take in VOTE TUESDAY signs Put out THANK ELECTION WORKERS
	25	Take in THANK ELECTION WORKERS
March	1	Newsletter
	3	Put out VOTE FROM HOME signs
	15	Newsletter
April	1	Newsletter
	1	Take in VOTE FROM HOME signs Put out VOTE TUESDAY signs
	7	<b><u>Spring General Election</u></b>
	8	Take in VOTE TUESDAY signs Put out THANK ELECTION WORKERS signs
	15	Take in THANK ELECTION WORKERS signs
August	11	<b><u>Primary</u></b>
November	3	<b><u>General Election</u></b>

## 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](mailto:vickiharmon@hotmail.com)>



## Lunch and Learn

**January 6** – How is our democracy and rule of law being eroded by current events?

Dr. Neil Kraus, Professor of Political Science  
University of Wisconsin, River Falls

**January 13** – How can we secure Fair Maps in Wisconsin?

Nikki Gabrail  
Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition

**January 20** – How does new legislation actually suppress voter access?

Kathy Straits and Katrina Larsen LWVSCV  
Karrie Waver Attorney and Chief Elections Inspector, Hudson, WI

**January 27** – How secure are our local elections?

Shabana Lundeen  
Polk County Clerk

Enjoy Free Soup and sandwich  
Tuesdays throughout January  
11:30-12:30

