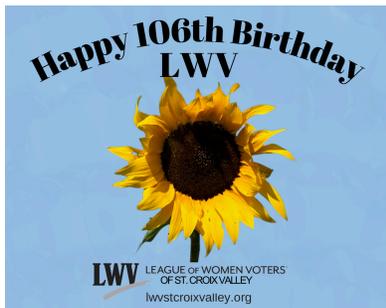




**OUR MISSION:** *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

February 15, 2026



"Today, the League of Women Voters marks 106 years of standing up for democracy when it has been challenged, undermined, or ignored. Our history is complex and unfinished, but it is defined by a refusal to back down from the fight for equal participation and equal rights. For more than a century, people across generations have organized in moments of uncertainty to hold power accountable and defend the freedom to vote. That work continues now, because democracy survives only when people are willing to protect it."

## 2026 LWV St Croix Valley Annual Meeting—All Invited!

LWVSCV Members and friends – ***SAVE THE DATE!***

Our annual meeting will be held on  
**Sunday, April 26, 2026,**  
from 1:30 to 4:30  
at the Amery Community Center.

Our guest speaker will be Jenelle Ludwig Krause from GROWW, one of our favorite collaborators with the LWVSCV. Jenelle will be speaking about:  
***The Power Pillar of White Rural America and Your 4th Amendment Rights***

We look forward to an afternoon of connection,  
business, education and refreshments.  
Please plan to attend.



## Polk County Board of Supervisors

Monday, March 9

5:30 - 7:30

Osceola Village Hall  
310 Chieftain Street, Osceola  
Room 205

Enter via the 4<sup>th</sup> Ave door  
(north side marked Senior Center)

Candidates from Districts  
2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12 & 14 are invited

Get ready to vote in the  
SPRING ELECTION - April 7



## St. Croix County Board of Supervisors

Tuesday, March 10

5:30 - 7:30

United Methodist Church  
1401 Laurel Ave  
Hudson, WI 54016

Candidates from Districts  
1,2,3,6,7,8,10,13,15,16,&19  
are invited

Get ready to vote in the  
SPRING ELECTION - APRIL 7



## Candidate Meet & Greets Scheduled for March

LWV St. Croix Valley is hosting two Candidate Meet & Greets for County Board of Supervisors' Candidates. Your County Board of Supervisors and the County Executive make all of the decisions about our local infrastructure and services.

Our League chapter, in collaboration with Wilberg Memorial Public Library, invited 11 Polk County Board of Supervisors' Candidates – those new to the office and candidates running in contested races -- to participate in the March 9 Meet and Greet.

Polk County Board Candidates  
Meet & Greet  
Monday, March 9, 5:30 – 7:30 pm  
Osceola Village Hall

The St. Croix Valley chapter of the League of Women Voters in collaboration with the Hudson Star Observer, the Hudson Public Library, and the River Channel invited 21 candidates to the March 10 Meet & Greet!

St. Croix County Board Candidates  
Meet & Greet  
March 10, 5:30 – 7:30 pm  
United Methodist Church, Hudson

Both events will give Polk and St. Croix County residents an opportunity to meet candidates and learn about their positions on issues before they cast their ballots in the Spring Election, April 7, 2026.

Candidates will be given an opportunity to introduce themselves, delineate their top priorities for the County, answer prepared questions and then after the formal part of the program, meet individually with voters to answer their questions.

We strongly encourage our members to attend these two events, especially the Meet & Greet in your county. We also ask that you share the attached flyers advertising these events with family and friends via email and/or print and post -- distribute at your book club, e.g. and post on bulletin boards in your community. Thank you!

Irene Bugge  
Carolyn Saunders  
Miriam Flysjo  
Kathy Streitz  
Janet Ballis Lestock

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## Member Services

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

Our members continue to support our neighbors, which brings hope! Our Support is demonstrated by learning to be legal observers, patrolling, providing rides, food, and essential items, interpreting, shopping, and meeting the needs of families.

### *Always look for the helpers.*

As of this newsletter's publication, LWVSCV proudly counts 115 members. Most are active at this time. If you need to renew your membership, please fill out the membership application on our website at [lwwstcroixvalley.org](http://lwwstcroixvalley.org). Let me know if you have questions. 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.

*Reach out to a League sister or brother to attend a coffee, a rally, or to visit and support each other. Check on your neighbors and take good care of yourselves. We believe in the power of our League membership to work toward an authentic democracy.*

## Please join me in welcoming our newest members!

- Lennet Radke, [lennetfradke@gmail.com](mailto:lennetfradke@gmail.com). Lennet lives in River Falls.
- Laurie Harmon, [laurieanneharmon@gmail.com](mailto:laurieanneharmon@gmail.com). Laurie lives in Hudson.

Please reach out to our new members in your HUB! Thank you all for your determination and the work you do!



*We stand firmly  
for peaceful civic engagement,  
respectful dialogue,  
and the protection  
of every individual's rights and safety.*

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### **VOTER SERVICES—Kay Brooks, supported by Kathy Streitz**

We have been busy, thanks to opportunities we keep running across and members enthusiastically stepping up! HUB leaders have been asked to find volunteers to go into the high schools that have accepted our invitation. As a result, we are visiting a number of high schools with our voter registration/election information and Civics game wheel. Members also celebrated the 106th birthday of the League by visiting a couple of area colleges to encourage students to vote.

### **SPRING ELECTIONS**

Spring elections tend to be for local candidates. Many, if not most, communities do not have a Primary Election. Thanks to members who gathered information about what races there are—and to Evanne Hunt, who posted that information on our website ([LWVstcroixvalley.org](http://LWVstcroixvalley.org)). Individuals can either check our website or look for information on [MYVOTE.wi.org](http://MYVOTE.wi.org) to see if they need to vote in a Primary. There absolutely IS a Spring General Election for everyone on Tuesday, April 7. There will be races for school board, county board supervisors, and municipal positions. Additionally, there could be a few places with referendums. Even more important will be a contest for the Wisconsin State Supreme Court which will greatly affect the direction of the state politically.

### **LWV and UNITE RISE 8.5 SIGNS**

Many thanks to members who offered to make new rally signs for our work. Colleen Kwong, Sharyl Manwiller, and Mary Jo Krueger all have agreed to take this on as we are in desperate need for all that we are doing. Edna Early's beautiful signs will still be used, but are getting worn and have been distributed between the 4 HUBs, so more are needed. It's a good problem to have!

### **VOTER REGISTRATION TRAINING**

Once again, our sister League, LWVGCV, is offering to include our members in a Zoom training on Monday, March 9. We highly encourage members to take it to gain a better understanding of

what we are asking potential voters to do. Many of our members take this as a review every time it is offered. Here is the invitation:



We're offering a voter registration training session on Monday, March 9th from 6:00–8:00pm via Zoom. This session is open to both League members and the general public.

Our goal is to help you feel confident and well-prepared when assisting others with voter registration in Wisconsin, and to make sure you know where to find reliable, expert resources. New volunteers should complete this training before attending their first voter registration event, and returning volunteers are warmly encouraged to join us for a refresher.

During the session, presenters will role-play common scenarios volunteers may encounter at voter registration drives, share helpful handouts, and answer questions.

Topics include:

- Registration methods (by mail, in person, or online through MyVote.wi.gov)
- Registration deadlines
- Eligibility requirements
- Required documents

In addition, participants will see how to use MyVote.wi.gov to locate practical information for voters:

- Their municipal clerk or their polling place
- Upcoming election dates
- What's on the ballot
- Their voting activity history
- How to request an absentee ballot

Note: A new training for volunteers experienced in voter registration will be offered this fall.

To register (required) for this free training; please follow these steps:

Go to the calendar on our League website here:

[4](https://www.lwv-gcv.org/content.aspx?page_id=4091&club_id=329843&item_id=288086)

- Scroll down and follow the directions to register as a member or general public
- Enter your name and contact information and to answer three questions about any prior experience with voter registration assistance
- After registering, you will receive an email confirming your registration and the Zoom link

- Handouts will be emailed to you a few days before the training; please print what you'll need at the session

For more information, please contact Lori Miller at [lbmiller492@gmail.com](mailto:lbmiller492@gmail.com)

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## ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE ~Join us!!!

All members are invited to New Richmond for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Tuesday, March 17th. League members will proudly show off what we are all about. with some added green and signs, promoting voting and the April 7th election. The parade is relatively short, but a good time. It starts at 4:00. We have several members who plan to "march". The more, the merrier! Contact Kay Brooks if you would think you can join us! If we know you are coming, we will be sure to share information as we receive it.  
*(photo from St Patty's Day Parade 2024)*

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## HUBS!

*Thoughts about HUBs: The purpose of our HUBs is to connect, collaborate, empower HUB members and our chapter as a whole. Also to share the love – as in the load of work and communication.*



### Hub 1: Danbury, Webster, Siren, Grantsburg, Frederic, Luck

On Friday, February 6, five Hub 1 members met for lunch at Adventures in Siren. Patti Hurd, Sue Donovan, Pam Girtz, Marie Engdahl and Kris Surbaugh met to discuss current strategies that our chapter is employing to both get out the vote and to educate the public. We had a dynamic discussion about what we feel we are willing and able to accomplish in the next few months.

Sue Donovan was inspired to write an LTE on Wisconsin Election Integrity which has been submitted to local newspapers—watch for it and let us know if it gets printed!

Patti Hurd is interested in connecting Burnett County Board Supervisors with their constituents and plans to lead a project that is similar to a Meet and Greet in May.

We also discussed organizing volunteers for the Webster Farmer's Market this summer.

We took home flyers to post on our local bulletin boards (laundromat, grocery stores, etc) stating the dates of the spring elections.

**COULD YOU LOSE  
YOUR VOTING RIGHTS?**

13,822 women in Polk & Burnett counties are at risk.

**What to know about the "SAVE Act"**

Wednesday, February 25, 2026  
11:30 am to 1:00 pm  
Larsen Family Library, 7401 Main St, Webster

**Enjoy free light lunch  
Presentation and Q&A**

"How could the SAVE Act legislation suppress voter access?"  
Kathy Streitz and Kris Surbaugh, LWVSCV  
Karrie Weaver, Attorney, Chief Elections Inspector, LWVSCV




In addition, each member took home a flyer for the upcoming SAVE Act educational outreach for February 25 at the Webster Library.

Sitting down together and ‘breaking bread’ helps us get grounded, learn more about our membership, establish our goals, and simply gain strength from each other.

It can be hard being a blue dot in a red zone, so we all love to get together for comradery, support, and hope.

HUB 1 is planning to meet again March 5 in Siren. All are welcome to attend (you don’t have to be in Hub 1!)

Contact Kris S. if you want more information:

[<aksurbaugh@gmail.com>](mailto:aksurbaugh@gmail.com)

**PS: The SAVE Act has been renamed as the Save America Act. It has been renamed and is an even worse voter suppression bill–This version was passed by the House this last week. Call and voice your objections to this blatant attempt to silence a tremendous number of legal voters!**

- 1) The federal government is requiring that all states submit their voter rolls.
- 2) Passports or birth certificates will be required to vote. The last name on the birth certificate must match the last name on one’s voter id.
- 3) This basically would eliminate mail-in ballots and online voter registration



## HUB 2 – Amery, Clear Lake, Milltown, Osceola, St. Croix Falls

Coffee at Stone & Oak, Amery, Feb. 12. New member Amy Broich requested a coffee meeting to learn more about the League and how to get more involved. She invited a friend, Jenny, who is interested in the League. Pat Seidl and Irene Bugge rounded out the foursome.

During the coffee, Amy, a retired elementary school teacher, learned about an opportunity on March 2 to join Kay Brooks and Janet Anderson at Luck High School. The League has been invited to present at two Civics classes and staff a table at the lunch hour between the two classes. Amy said yes!

Tabling Events are being scheduled and teams assembled to provide voter education and registration information at Amery, Clear Lake, Osceola and St. Croix Falls high schools. Thank you to: Marcy Armstrong, Sharyl Manwiler, Pat Seidl, Colleen Foxwell, Mirima Flysjo, Nanette DelMonaco. We need a few more volunteer spots to fill to round out the teams.



### **HUB 3 REPORT: Deer Park, Star Prairie, New Richmond, Somerset**

We are just coming off of a productive “coffee”, held at Not Just a Cafe in New Richmond on Wednesday, February 11th. Karen Roberts hosted 12 members and we filled the time with information, concerns, and anecdotes. Topics covered included the SAVE Act and change in postmark rules. We also discussed plans for possible lunch and learns, or dinner and discussions, and the St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Edna gave us an update on the Los Amigos program and Beth talked about the GROWW 4th Amendment Initiative for businesses. We also discussed resistance activities: the paperclip and Melt the ICE” red knit hat movements.

We are starting to do some high school visits. On February 5, Karen Roberts, Janet Anderson, and Kay Brooks set up a table with the wheel and Civics questions at Somerset High School. They connected with over 50 students, several of which are or will be 18 before the fall election. Students were literally lined up to spin the wheel and receive school logo bookmarks with voter information on the back. Vicki Harmon and Kay Brooks will be at Glenwood City High School on February 18.



Patty Van Nevel, new member Cathy Boehm, and Kay Brooks celebrated the 106th birthday of the League at Chippewa Valley Tech on February 10. Likewise, Kathy Kraemer, Vicki Harmon, and Karen Greenberg celebrated at Northwood Tech the same day.

### **HUB 4 Hudson, Baldwin, Hammond, River Falls, Prescott**

Saturday, February 7, HUB 4 met at the Baldwin Perk coffee shop. Judy Green, Kathy Streitz, Mary Jo Krueger, Karen Magneson, Mellissa Karl and friend Molly, and Denise Flaherty gathered for camaraderie and for support.

While we finished 100 *get out the vote postcards* we talked. Our discussion moved into how members are helping families with rides, legal support, interpreting, providing clothing, and essential items. As we all know, families are hiding at home, while some are taking risks to go to work and church.

That lively discussion moved into reaching out again to high schools we haven’t heard back from. Two discussion topics we shared that may motivate high school seniors to VOTE, were election integrity and mis and disinformation. We all took voter information flyers home to copy and share in our communities. The coffees are invigorating and I am grateful!

## ***KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!***

***To learn more about your civil rights as a protester use this link:***

***<<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/protesters-rights>>***

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

**Note changes to dates due to US Postal changes**

### 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 Friday, March 27, 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

February	15	Newsletter
	17	<b><i>Spring Primary for some communities</i></b>
	17	February LWVSCV Board Zoom 4PM
	18	LWV at Glenwood City High School
	18	Take in VOTE TUESDAY signs Put out THANK ELECTION WORKERS

	19	<b>LWVGCV Public School Funding 101--What We Need to Know, Session 2</b> <b>4-5 PM</b> <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85884278454?pwd=bzbWRyu9DKZq9kxf0TYQM7d2tT0qae.1">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85884278454?pwd=bzbWRyu9DKZq9kxf0TYQM7d2tT0qae.1</a>
	21	Peacekeeper training in Luck (email luckpolkwisco@gmail.com)
	25	Take in THANK ELECTION WORKERS
March	1	Newsletter
	2	LWV at New Richmond High School LWV at Luck High School
	3	<b>Put out VOTE FROM HOME signs</b>
	9	Meet & Greet for Polk County Board of Supervisor Candidates, Osceola Village Hall, 5:30 – 7:30.
	9	LWVGCV Voter Registration Training on Zoom 4:00-6:00 PM < <a href="https://www.lwv-gcv.org/content.aspx?page_id=4091&amp;club_id=329843&amp;item_id=288086">https://www.lwv-gcv.org/content.aspx?page_id=4091&amp;club_id=329843&amp;item_id=288086</a> >4
	15	Newsletter
	17	St Patrick's Day Parade in New Richmond 4:00PM
	27	<b>Take in VOTE FROM HOME signs</b>
	28	NO KINGS RALLY AMERY
April	1	Newsletter
	1	<b>Put out VOTE TUESDAY signs</b>
	7	<b><i>Spring General Election</i></b>
	8	<b>Take in VOTE TUESDAY signs</b> <b>Put out THANK ELECTION WORKERS signs</b>
	15	<b>Take in THANK ELECTION WORKERS signs</b>
	26	Annual Meeting All Members Amery Community Center
August	11	<b><i>Primary</i></b>

November	3	<b><u>General Election</u></b>
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## 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)>



### WARNING!

Members continue to receive occasional emails that are scams.

Beware of any emails that ask you to open a link or ask you to do something financially. Consider that to be a red flag and check the email address that it is coming from. If it isn't an address that you recognize, contact the person by using a text or league verified email of

who is supposedly sending it to verify  
that they sent it.