



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

March 15, 2026



Congratulations LWVSCV -

Our QR Code screenshot graphic inspired the LWV WI to create this graphic that will be shared and used statewide. Sharing things we create benefits everyone and is appreciated. Thank you all for the great work we are doing to GOTV and Unite, Rise 8.5! Beth Wood.



Grab a screenshot of this image and keep it on your phone to pull up in any conversation you are having with friends, family, or in your different social groups with information about the 2026 elections.

You can share this and encourage them to check out their registration, what's on their ballot and the next 3 election dates for reference.

Unite, Rise and GOTV!



Polk County Board of Supervisors Meet & Greet In-person and Live-Streamed

Five candidates new to the Polk County Board of Supervisors or running in contested races participated in the March 9 Candidate Meet & Greet at the Osceola Village Hall.

The candidates were: Doug Route, Incumbent (District 2); James Bethke (District 3); District 12: Frances Duncanson, Incumbent (District 12) and Patrick Cahill, also running in District 12 and Craig Moriak (District 13).

Jeffrey Kemp, Polk County District Attorney, served as the moderator for the evening.

Twenty-five people attended the Meet & Greet with 66 watching the livestream. The recording has been posted on Facebook thanks to Beth Wood and is available on our website thanks to Evanne Hunt. Check out our website! <https://lwwstcroixvalley.org/county-boards-of-supervisors/>

Candidates were invited to introduce themselves, speak about their top priorities for Polk County and then to answer a series of questions that were randomly drawn from a “hat” -- actually an LWV beanie. These included questions about protection of water resources, housing, illicit drugs, transparency in decision-making, broadband expansion and equity, plus how to balance tax burden vs service levels and rising costs vs levy limits.

Following the panel Q & A, the audience had the opportunity to speak one-on-one with the candidates. They also enjoyed refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library and the League and perused LWV voter education materials. According to Linda Bowitz, who staffed the League information table, the most popular handouts were maps showing the Board of Supervisor Districts along with a handout that asked and answered the question: “What does my County Board of Supervisors do?”

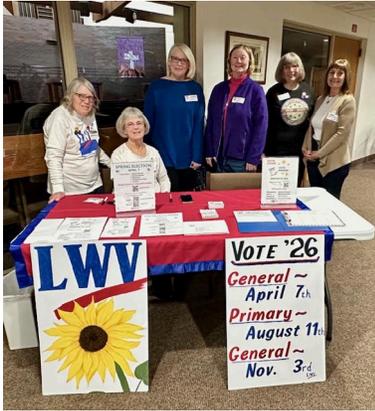
Some candidates who were not able to participate in the Candidate Meet & Greet at the Osceola Village Hall requested the opportunity to write answers to the questions posed, for posting on the League website. We opened up this possibility to all eleven candidates who were invited, including the five who participated.



I would like to thank Anne Miller, Director of the Wilberg Memorial Public Library and Miriam Flysjo President of Friends of the Osceola Public Library for collaborating with us to host this event. Thanks to Devon Swanberg, Osceola Village Administrator for his technical support and expertise plus Carolyn Saunders, our League chapter's Past President, along with the crew of League Members and Friends of the Library – Janet Ha, Kathie Nelson, Sue Frazier, Robin Maercklein and Linda Bowitz -- who stepped up to

help in a myriad of ways.

Irene Bugge



March 10 St. Croix County Board Candidate Meet & Greet – Janet Lestock & Kathy Streitz

Our Meet & Greet was a success! We shared the evening with 11 Candidates and over 60 community members!

Gratitude!

We felt such gratitude for our candidates' willingness to run for a county board supervisor position and to spend time preparing for and sharing their views on current issues with community members! Each candidate answered a total of four questions, and

then we moved into a meet & greet.

Our plan was to draw questions from a hat, but with 12 candidates confirmed, we wanted the question process to be easy for the moderator and candidates. We used a Sequential Shuffle Method to randomly prepare questions ahead of time. This saved time, which gave constituents more time to visit with their county supervisor and candidate.

Many LWVSCV members stepped up!

Thank you to the greeters. Thank you, Kay, for the table filled with voter information, and a big thank you to Jaye Hay for being in charge of the delicious refreshments. Thank you to Beth Wood for starting out the evening and to Evanne Hunt, Jarell Kuney, Kay Brooks, Cathy Boehm, Liz Malanaphy (timer cards), Linda Koep, Celeste Koerberl, Katrina Larsen, Cathy Leaf, along with husband helpers, John Lestock, Steve Streitz (time keeper), Jim Green, and Greg Leaf! Thank you, Kathy Streitz, for coordinating the whole event. Thanks to the Hudson Library, the Star Observer, River Channel, and Jamie Johnson, our moderator. So many showed up to make this Meet & Greet happen. Very grateful for LWVSCV!

****Note: Please look for a link to the Meet & Greet (after March 23rd) with potentially all candidates' written responses to questions on the LWVSCV website lwvstcroixvalley.org. The Meet & Greet will also be available to view on the Hudson River Channel schedule.

“Government of the people, by the people, for the people!” Abraham Lincoln 1863



Member Services



Membership Matters: Growing Stronger, Together!

As members of the LWVSCV we honor our volunteers who do the hands-on work to safeguard democracy. We are directly involved in shaping the important issues to keep the community strong. Every life we touch is remembered! Sometimes, the most difficult and most fulfilling choice is to show up!

As of this newsletter's publication, LWVSCV proudly counts 119 members. Most are active and current at this time.

If you need to renew your membership, please print the membership application from our website at lwwstcroixvalley.org, fill it out, and mail it to Katrina with a check or fill out the membership application on our website and use a credit card. Let me know if you have questions.

Reach out to our new members near and far, in your HUB and beyond. Attend a coffee, a rally, or a high school visit.

Don't forget to bring a friend! Check on your neighbors!

Please join me in welcoming our new members!

Barbara Kunz, hgpbarb@frontiernet.net, New Richmond

Karen Kirk, kakirk2019@gmail.com, Danbury

Bridget Faricy, bridget@bridgetfaricy.com, River Falls



VOTER SERVICES

As we approach the Spring Election on April 7th, information is being distributed in multiple ways—to the libraries, to the high schools and on social media (thanks to Beth Wood on Facebook and Evanne Hunt on our website).

Flyers have been posted in members' communities and will continue to be posted. We are looking for members to help with posting and we also encourage everyone who can, to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New Richmond on March 17th. (below) If you are interested in helping out, contact Kay Brooks (kaybrooks48@gmail.com). We will have something for you to do! Note that you are welcome to join us at Table 65 afterwards!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Hello, fellow leprechauns! **It's time to be thinking green!** All members are invited to participate in the New Richmond St. Patrick's Day parade on Tuesday, March 17. We will celebrate each other and showcase the upcoming Spring Election on April 7th. We have great signs and candy to hand out (not throw 🙄). Wear whatever mix of green and League paraphernalia you would like. We never know what the weather will be, but the parade is short and a heck of a lot of fun! And—to add to it—Ann Hall is welcoming us at Table 65 at the end! **If you can let me know that you are coming, I would appreciate it—for planning--but come regardless.** (kaybrooks48@gmail.com)

Here's the scoop:

- Meet in front of the Warren Wood Law Office (152 W. 2nd St.) at 4:00 to pick up signs to carry.
 - The parade starts at 5:00.
 - Line up on W. 3rd St. in front of McCabe's Shamrock in the order of arrival.
 - Head to Table 65 in the strip mall on the north side afterwards if you'd like to have still more fun!
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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.



HUB 1 Burnett and Northern Polk

LWVSCV members Nancy Kolb, Barb Katt, Kathy Surbaugh, Carol McIntyre, Patti Hurd, Marie Engdahl, and Kris Surbaugh met at Adventures in Siren for a strategizing meeting on Thursday, March 5. Members agreed to volunteer for Farmers Market in Webster at the Northwest Passage Gallery on Fridays from May to September. Members also volunteered to attend the “Nurturing Your Nonprofit” Expo in Siren on April 9.

Future projects for May include organizing an educational program on the need for a permanent solution to guarantee Fair Maps, and also a Meet & Greet to introduce the new Burnett County Board of Supervisors. All of which involves a lot of groundwork before we can share dates and times.

Members spent the time sharing stories and experiences—we are aware that our neighborhood holds unique challenges. Together we can find the best way to use our energy in a positive way that secures better success.

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

Polk County Board of Supervisors Meet & Greet, Village Hall Osceola (see article)

High school voter education/registration tabling:

March 23 – Osceola High School – Miriam Flysjo and Kathie Nelson

March 25 – St. Croix Falls High School – Nanette DelMonaco and Adrienne Gyllen

March 31 – Amery High School -- Sharyl Manwiller, Marcy Armstrong and Pat Seidl

March 31 – Clear Lake – Colleen Foxwell and Janet Wyatt

Irene Bugge

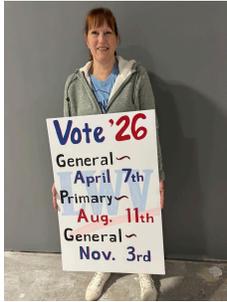
HUB 3

VISIT TO SPRING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL



On March 5, Janet Anderson, Patty Van Nevel, and Kay Brooks trekked to Spring Valley to do a presentation to their high school seniors. Joining them was Village of Spring Valley clerk, Luann Emerson.

They talked about the importance of voting and the kids had an opportunity to register if they were 18. All students received bookmarks designed by League member Kathie Nelson, with important election information on one side and the school logo and slogan on the other. We were able to reach approximately 40 students.



NEW SIGNS!

Mary Jo Krueger has shared her art talent in order to replenish our rally-sized signs. We are extremely thrilled to have several beautiful signs for LWV, the 8.5 Initiative, and election dates. Mary Jo works as a massage therapist in New Richmond, but has resurrected her high school interest in art to help us out. Her signs will be proudly displayed at future events! Thank you, Mary Jo!

HUB 4 News– Kathy Streitz, Janet Lestock, Judy Green

HUB 4 has members in the River Falls, Hammond, Baldwin, Roberts, and Hudson areas. We welcome suggestions, questions, and comments. Host a coffee, organize a gathering, reach out to members near you! It can be so comforting to meet in person.

High School Visits

Tuesday, March 31, Karen Magnuson, Mellissa Karl, and Kathy Streitz will visit Baldwin-Woodville High School during the lunch hour.

Thursday, May 21st, Carol Skinner and Kathy Streitz will visit River Falls High School during their Future Week which they offer once a month.

We will have in tow, our spinning wheel, civics questions, candy prizes and voter information. We have promised and will deliver bookmarks for the seniors with school logo, moto, and the QR code link to myvote.wi.gov. Students will be offered voter registration materials and be invited to register to vote! We look forward to interacting with our future voters!

Please note HUB 4 members, other HUB members, and friends, are always welcome to come along on a high school visit! These visits are always joyful! Let me know if you have the urge for a joyful experience. ☀️



March 3rd, Katrina Larsen and Kathy Streitz participated in a celebration of Women’s History Month at the University Center for students. We joined the ROTC who also had a spinner and are encouraging students to vote! We were happy to find that out! The Feminist Club, Social Worker’s group and the PFLAG group (their rep spoke to us at our annual meeting a few years ago) were also present. There were many conversations and questions answered about voting. Students and staff stopped by to talk about voting!

We have been invited to speak to an Intro to Sociology class in April.



Vote Tuesday Signs

We have new VOTE TUESDAY signs. They are two-sided sleeves that use U stakes. Let Katrina know if you would like one, katrina_larsen@yahoo.com. These signs should go out on Wednesday, April 1 and come in on Wednesday, April 8.



Give Big Valleys - Fundraiser

The United Way of St. Croix & Red Cedar Valleys sponsors a 24 hour online giving event to support nonprofits in western Wisconsin. In 2026, the giving day is Tuesday, April 28 but you can donate at any time.

Please consider a donation to the League of Women Voters St. Croix Valley and share this information with friends and others you know who support our educational mission "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy." Donations can be made at:

<https://www.givebigvalleys.org/organization/League-Of-Women-Voters-Of-Wisconsin-Education-Fund-18>

Tax Law Change Effecting Donations

Beginning in tax year 2026, you can deduct up to \$1,000 of donations without having to itemize. This change will help many of us since we use the standard deduction. Save all your donation receipts for your 2006 tax preparation.

Putting Up and Taking Down Yard Signs for Spring Elections

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

March	15	Newsletter
	17	St Patrick's Day Parade in New Richmond 4:00PM
	23	Osceola High School (Hub 2)
	25	St Croix Falls High School (Hub 2)
	27	Take in VOTE FROM HOME signs
	28	NO KINGS RALLY AMERY (11AM-1:30PM) SIREN (1-3 PM)
	31	Baldwin-Woodville High School Karen Magnuson, Mellissa Karl, and Kathy Streitz will visit during the lunch hour.
	31	Amery High School (Hub 2)
	31	Clear Lake High School (Hub 2)
April	1	Newsletter
	1	Put out VOTE TUESDAY signs
	7	<u>Spring General Election</u>

	8	Take in VOTE TUESDAY signs Put out THANK ELECTION WORKERS signs
	9	Nurturing Your Nonprofit Expo Siren
	15	Take in THANK ELECTION WORKERS signs
	26	<i>Annual Meeting All Members Amery Community Center</i>
	28	<i>Give Big Valleys</i>
May	1	Newsletter
	15	Newsletter
	19	Board Meeting and Pre Retreat St Croix Falls
	21	River Falls High School: Carol Skinner and Kathy Streitz will visit during their Future Week which they offer once a month.
August	11	<u><i>Primary</i></u>
November	3	<u><i>General Election</i></u>



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.

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>

Directors

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

Kathy Streitz <kfstreitz@gmail.com>

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

Vicki Harmon <vickiharmon@hotmail.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 Lestock <janetblestock@gmail.com>

Nominations Chair Kathy Streitz <kfstreitz@gmail.com>

Roster Managers Katrina Larsen <katrina_larsen@yahoo.com>

Tami Halcomb <thalcomb@gmail.com>



Help us maintain our League. We need folks ready to take the reins in the next few years.

Sign up to shadow a director/chair/or officer in 2026—contact one of the folks above to find out more!