

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF ST. CROIX VALLEY

OUR MISSION: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

April 1, 2026 **League Members in Action! Parades and Rallies!**





**League of Women Voters
of St. Croix Valley**



2026 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday - April 26, 2026
1:30 to 4:30 Amery Area Community Center
608 Harriman Ave S

Keynote


***“The Power Pillar of Rural White America
and Your 4th Amendment Rights”***

with

Jenelle Ludwig Krause

Executive Director, GROWW/LWV SCV member

Agenda

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1:30 - 2:00 | Check-in & Social Time |
| 2:00 - 3:00 | Welcome & Business Meeting |
| 3:00 - 3:15 | Stretch Break  |
| 3:15 - 4:00 | Keynote |
| 4:00 - 4:30 | Announcements & Wrap Up |

Potluck: Please bring grazing food to share.

Invite Friends





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! Thank you to all of our members for covering the big things and the small details.

As of this newsletter's publication, LWVSCV proudly counts 125 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, our treasurer with a check or fill out the membership application on our website and use a credit card to join. We do offer a \$20.00 minimum fee to join if needed. Please let me know if you have questions.

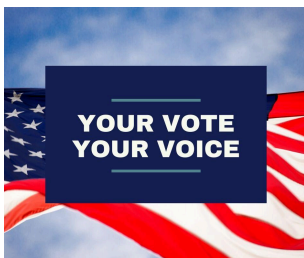
Reach out to our new members near and far, in your HUB and beyond. Attend a coffee, a rally, or a high school visit.

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

Please join me in welcoming our new members!

Kerri Surbaugh, kerri.surbaugh@gmail.com, Frederic
Sarah Van Scoyk, ande0569@gmail.com, River Falls
Katie Haugerud, katie.t.clark@gmail.com, New Richmond
Jen Wittek, jenwittek@gmail.com, Houlton

VOTER SERVICES



SPRING ELECTION

Voter Services is the machinery for encouraging people to vote. With the Spring Election coming up on April 7th, our members are helping in multiple ways. Flyers have been posted. Beth Wood has posted information on Facebook every Day. Evanne Hunt has posted candidate information on our website. Our artists (Sharyl Manwiller, Mary Jo Krueger, and Colleen Kwong) have made wonderful large signs. 12+ members walked in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New Richmond. Volunteers from all HUBs have visited high schools and colleges. Members have written news articles about issues we care about. Members have provided inspiration with their own creative ideas: hats, pins,

special rally signs, a paperclip initiative. Members are putting out VOTE TUESDAY yard signs. Several members will be poll workers for the election.

EMAIL BLITZ

Here is what you can still do: Write a short email and send it to people you want to be sure to vote. If you promote a candidate(s), do NOT involve the LWV name. If you just encourage people to vote, go ahead.

Here is a sample, but feel free to write your own:

It's election time once again. It will be important to get anyone you know to get out to vote. In past elections, many qualified voters have not bothered to vote. Let's change that! Wisconsin voters have local elections and a State Supreme Court election on their ballot. Ballots vary a bit in each area. Information on many candidates is posted on the League of Women Voters—St. Croix Valley website. Information regarding the two Supreme Court judge candidates can be found on the same website, as well as VOTE411.org and Ballotpedia.org. Check to see if candidates share your viewpoints. Please pass this on.
Your name

WHAT'S NEXT? FARMERS MARKETS

Believe it or not—summer is just around the corner! We will be looking for volunteers to set up tables at farmers markets once again. We also will be looking at other places to distribute voting information in preparation for the November election.



Dear Members of the League of Women Voters,

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible outpouring of care and concern I have received following my medical emergency on February 21st. I am especially thankful to Susan Bosley and Jarell Kuney, who were instrumental in contacting my son after he found me.

I have been overwhelmed by your beautiful cards, flowers, gifts, and visits. Most of all, I am touched by your support, which is giving me the strength to heal. Our organization is living proof of the power of women bonding together to support each other, our community, and the world.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. I look forward to joining you all in action again soon.

With gratitude,

Karen Magnuson  

2026 Governor Forum



2026 Governor Forum

JOIN CITIZEN ACTION'S GOVERNOR FORUM ON APRIL 14th from 6-8pm!

This August and November, Wisconsinites will vote for their next governor. But before they get there, they need to meet the candidates. Citizen Action is excited to host a governor forum on April 14th, giving folks a chance to hear directly from the candidates about values such as healthcare, climate change, democracy, and more.

Citizen Action of Wisconsin has a strong record of endorsing in major state primaries, and we're looking just that in this race. **We need a governor who will put Wisconsin's values first.** Healthcare, public education, reimagined safety, union rights, climate justice, and more are on the ballot.

Forum attendees will be asked for feedback on what they heard from candidates, and that feedback will be used to guide our endorsement decision!

Our forum will be virtual, but each co-op region will also have a watch party, where you can come together with other Citizen Action members!

[Citizen Action Wisconsin https://www.citizenactionwi.org/](https://www.citizenactionwi.org/)

WHAT HUB AM I IN?

Many members are unsure of what HUB they are in. We have split the League geographically, but members are welcome to do activities with ANY HUB! If you see something inviting in the newsletter that you would like to be a part of, there are no lines to cross. All are welcome anywhere! Here is a description of our HUBs by town:

HUB 1	HUB 2	HUB 3	HUB 4
Danbury Siren Webster Frederic	Amery Clayton Milltown St. Croix Falls Luck	Deer Park Star Prairie New Richmond Somerset	Hudson Baldwin Hammond River Falls Prescott Houlton

☀️ PLEASE NOTE: As a chapter of LWVWI, we have been working on an exploration of our structure. Breaking into 4 HUBz is new, and we continue to explore structural frameworks. Please bring your experiences and ideas about organizational structure to the coffee and feel free to call or email me with your ideas. We welcome all of your voices and suggestions. Each HUB will send two or three representatives to a preplanning retreat on May 19th in St. Croix Falls.



HUB 3 NEWS

COFFEE

Knitters at the HUB 3 coffee, held at the New Richmond Library. I to r: Kathy Kraemer, Karen Greenberg, Linda Koep, and Colleen Foxwell.

We had a very productive gathering at the New Richmond Library on March 15. With 22 people, we barely had enough seats for everyone! Vicki Harmon was our hostess and a highlight was a knitting project by Colleen Foxwell, Linda Koep, Kathy Kraemer, and Karen Greenberg. They will have a surprise for all members at the Annual Meeting in April. (I'm not telling!!!).

Kay Brooks and Kathy Streitz discussed our need for members to take on League and HUB positions, both small and larger. Now that the League is split into HUBs and because most of the ground work has been done, positions are much more easily done. Many tasks are for a month or two and then done. We also are promoting the idea of co-chairs. That said—we ask that each

member look for something that they can take on. The more that get involved, the stronger we are as a League and the greater our impact will be.

One of our guests was new member Bridget Faricy, who came with Janet Ellinger. Bridget informed us as to what she knows about youth engagement. It certainly stimulated our thinking about how we might better get our youth involved in the voting process!

Kay Brooks HUB 3 Leader

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

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. 🌻

HUB4 Coffee Invitation from Kathy Streitz

Members and friends from all HUBz are welcome!

You are invited to a coffee at my house in Hudson. I look forward to having our HUB together. Face to Face, we can support each other and brainstorm actions in our education & advocacy for democracy. Please let me know if you can bring a treat to share.

HUB 4 Coffee

Saturday, April 18

10:00am

429 Krattley Ln, Hudson

Please feel free to bring a friend.

RSVPs are encouraged & helpful. 🌻

Discussion Topics

☕ Preparations for the Primary election in August and General election in November. As you know, the November election will determine the extent to which we maintain our democracy. Bring your concerns and ideas as we educate and advocate for democracy. 🇺🇸

FYI - Janet Ellinger and I attended the HUB 3 coffee in New Richmond 3/25/26 22 LWVSCV members were present in the gorgeous, new, New Richmond library. We learned additional information about the New Richmond high school students organizing to protect Trans children's rights and their efforts to support school board candidates who do not belong to Moms for Liberty.

The New Richmond high school students are supported by fellow students, parents, staff, community members, existing laws, and the constitution. The students are eager to learn more about their constitutional rights. They are opposed to the election of a school board candidate who is against trans students using the school restrooms. Follow the New Richmond students on Facebook.

Tom Tiffany is involved and the federal government has opened an investigation into the New Richmond school board.

We also learned more about Turning Point USA and why the LWV has concerns about reaching youth. TPUSA has a large amount of money backing them as they organize, form clubs, and register students to vote. These TPUSA groups are formed adjacent to Wisconsin high schools and colleges. Thank you Bridget Faricy for sharing. Bridget is a new member of LWVSCV. We have more to explore and brainstorming to do, as to how to reach our youth in these challenging times.

Warm regards,
RSVP to Kathy Streitz...
612-916-8856 email, texts or phone calls are all ok with me.

kfstreitz@gmail.com



The Seed Keeper—book and art!

A few years ago many of our LWVSCV members read the book *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson and attended a book discussion with the author on Zoom. *The Seed Keeper* has been chosen for the Big Read in the St Croix Valley and many of our local libraries are hosting an exhibit featuring seed art created by our LWVSCV member Bridget Faricy. I encourage you to revisit reading this beautiful book and taking in the exhibit at a library near you! **Elizabeth Wood**

LWVSCV members: We have New T-Shirts available to order.

Women's relaxed fit, sizes



**Small to 3X
Unisex sizes
XSmall to 4X**

Contact Susan Bosley: <morgansouthside@gmail.com>

HUB 1 News: LWVSCV and Polk Burnett Indivisible have invited Nicole Gabrail from the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition for “Fair Maps in Wisconsin: Why Do We Need a Constitutional Amendment?” on April 1, 11:00 am to 12:00 Noon at the Larsen Family Public Library, Webster.

The Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition advocates for representative government for all by creating an independent nonpartisan redistricting process. The program will outline the Coalition’s proposal to implement an Independent Redistricting Commission through state legislation and a constitutional amendment. Find out how gerrymandering is a bipartisan problem, and how it impacts the outcome of elections.

HUB 2: Tabling at Four High Schools



Teams of League members were welcomed at four high schools this month to remind students about the upcoming election April 7 and to share voter education/registration information.

The teams and schools included: 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.

Students and a few adults were invited to spin the wheel and answer questions from the Naturalization Civics Test. Students were given school logo bookmarks with the MyVote QR code. A handout that outlined different options for how to register to vote for students turning 18 this



year was also provided.



More than 100 contacts with students were made. A debrief to talk more about each team's experience is planned for April 1 in Amery.

Special thanks to Colleen Kwong for painting HUB 2's new LWV Sunflower poster! Unveiled for the first time at Amery High School!



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

The United States Constitution
High School Student Edition
Presented by Kerry Kittel

Do you know your rights?
Let's talk about the Constitution.

Religion Speech Assembly Press Petition

Join us for a real conversation about what the United States Constitution says and how it applies to your life today.

We'll explore:

- The 5 Great Freedoms
- Key Constitutional Protections
- Constitutional Rights and how they are challenged today

Bring your friends. Bring your questions. Leave Empowered!

SUNDAY, MARCH 25 12:30 PM
at **Table 65**
729 N. Knowles Ave
New Richmond, WI

Please arrive for French Toast and conversation by 12:30
Discussion will begin at 12:45 PM

Food will be provided courtesy of Table 65.
Goodwill donation graciously accepted!

The LWVSCV was proud to support a Constitution brunch hosted by Ann Hall at Table 65 in New Richmond. The event focused on the questions of High School Students and specifically the LGBTQ community in New Richmond as they organize to address attacks from members of Moms for Liberty and the protections of LGBTQ students through Title IV. Retired NRHS History Teacher Kerry Kittel presented. The League had members in attendance and provided materials created by our member Laurie Harmon to be shared outlining the Constitution with a QR

code to the entire document. We appreciate all the work contributed by members and friends of the LWVSCV. We hope to offer this workshop to interested adults in the future.

Several members of the LWVSCV attended an event on International Transgender Awareness Day, March 31, held at Cougars in New Richmond, in support of the LGBTQ+ community.

Trans/Transgender is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity differs from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.

Do not **out** people as trans without the trans person's express **consent**.

Be an ally

If you don't know what pronouns to use, **ask**.

Educate yourself about trans people, and **listen** to trans individuals.

Respect the terminology a transgender person uses to describe their **identity**.

Respect the lived experiences of trans people.

Trans Day of Visibility 3.31

HER health
education
rights

Putting Up and Taking Down Yard Signs for Spring Elections

Spring Election

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



WE THE PEOPLE HAVE PLANS. MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

- March 28** No Kings 3.0
- April 7** Spring Election
- May 1** May Day Strong
- August 11** Fall Primary
- November 3** General Election

Find election information you need at VOTE411.org



April	1	Newsletter
		EARLY VOTING
	1	Put out VOTE TUESDAY signs
	1	Fair Maps Event 11AM Webster (Hub 1/Polk-Burnett Indivisible)
	7	<u><i>Spring General Election</i></u>
	8	Take in VOTE TUESDAY signs Put out THANK ELECTION WORKERS signs
	9	Nurturing Your Nonprofit Expo Siren (Hub 1)
	15	Take in THANK ELECTION WORKERS signs
	26	<i>Annual Meeting All Members</i>

		<i>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.
June	1	Newsletter
	20	Pride Event! Hudson Lakefront Park
June/July		Annual LWVSCV Picnic Heritage Center
August	1	Newsletter
	?	Annual LWVSCV Picnic-Grantsburg Area
	11	<i><u>Primary</u></i>
November	1	Newsletter
November	3	<i><u>General Election</u></i>

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>

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

Kathy Streitz <kfstreitz@gmail.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!