



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

June 1, 2026



On June 17th, LWVSCV will hold its first picnic of the summer!

It is at the **Heritage Center in New Richmond**, details are in the flyer. (copy also attached to email.)

Please RSVP to vickiharmon@hotmail.com or at 715.220.0890 by June 15th.

If you are able, a dish to pass is appreciated.

Guests Are Welcome!

"A Flag For Us All"

A Hudson Flag Day event takes place on
Sunday, June 14,
from 12:00 to 3:00 PM



- featuring a noon rally at Second and Vine Streets followed by a
- 1 PM parade and celebration at the Lakefront Park Bandshell.
- The event includes music, speakers, and community activities, with the program concluding around 3:00 PM.

Find our booth at the Hudson River Front near the stage!

We could use a few more helpers, so please contact Kathy Streitz for more details (kfstreitz@gmail.com)



Co-Presidents Irene Bugge and Beth Wood attended the 2026 Wisconsin LWV Annual Meeting on May 29-30, hosted by Marathon County in Wausau.



The meeting opened with a moving Land Acknowledgment by the Ho Chunk Nation. The theme of the conference was Meeting the Moment - Changing with the Times.

The LWVSCV would like to invite *all members* to attend the monthly board meetings as guests. We would like to encourage engagement in the leadership structure of the league and to enhance your league experience.



Following the business meeting we will be asking for feedback, suggestions, and team members will be available to answer any questions you may have.

We are committed to building the foundation and sustainability of our league through access and development.

The next LWVSCV Board/Leadership meeting is

June 18, 2026, at 4:00 pm

and will be held by zoom.

(cut and paste to your browser)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89168590105?pwd=EmZ0bEofJgFEUVAotjyEteZbyFMBC3.1>



Thank you to everyone that generously donated to the gift basket that was delivered to the LWVWI annual meeting and contributed to the silent auction.

Longaberger Basket and coffee mug - Beth Wood

Campfire Stories written by Robin Maercklein

Coffee from Cafe Wren donated by Irene Bugge

Jar of Honey donated by Barb Katt

Red Hat pins donated by the LWVSCV knitting group

Deja Designs necklace and earrings created by Edna Grotjahn Early

Sustainable Leadership Conversation

On May 19, the 2026 LWV SCV Leadership Team and members representing all four HUBs, and some newer members, participated in a conversation about how to secure sustainable leadership in our League chapter. The conversation was held in the St. Croix Falls Public Library Community Room and was facilitated by Barb Katt and Irene Bugge.



Participants included: Beth Wood, Kris Surbaugh, Irene Bugge, Evanne Hunt, Katrina Larsen, Barb Katt, Edna Early, Vicki Harmon, Kathy Streitz, Laurie Harmon, Mary Jo Krueger, Angie Johnson, Pat Seidl, Kay Brooks, and Liz Malanaphy. Thank you!

The Sustainable Leadership Conversation followed an hourlong in person Board Meeting led by Beth Wood, and a light meal coordinated by Kris Surbaugh.

The May 19 conversation was intended as a pre-retreat conversation. LWV SCV hopes to hold a 1/2 day facilitated retreat this fall for our full membership. This pre-retreat conversation was designed to help the Leadership Team prepare for further talks with an organizational development facilitator as we plan the fall retreat.

The facilitator has challenged us to be as clear as possible about what we want to achieve in the ½ day retreat. We need to “set the destination” and the facilitator’s job is to “help us consider possible paths to that destination.”

LWV SCV has a solid and consistent group of leaders who have held leadership positions for several years. These positions, as stipulated by our bylaws, include four officer positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary plus four Directors at Large.

Next year, the terms of several members of this Board are up. It is likely that there will be vacancies in three out of four officer positions and two out of four director positions in 2027.

The Nominations Committee had difficulty finding new people to step up to run for leadership positions this past April -- no new faces were added to the Board of Directors in 2026. And on a recent survey from Annual Meeting, only one person checked that they were interested in leadership in the League.

We are trying to be proactive in figuring out what stops members from considering moving into leadership roles and figuring out ways



to remove structural barriers. The facilitated conversation helped us to identify some of those barriers.

Leadership left with some action steps to take before the fall retreat. They also left the meeting with the clear understanding that the question we want to address at the fall retreat is: **What is the path we need to take to secure sustainable leadership in core positions?**

Submitted by Irene Bugge



PRIDEFEST on Saturday, June 20 – 10AM-4:30PM

Join us at beautiful Lake Front Park in Hudson on June 20 for the 4th annual Pride celebration. Enjoy the color, music, and diversity in a fair-like atmosphere. There are dozens of booths, including ours, and lots of entertainment. Our table will have election and voter registration information.

We are especially looking for volunteers to take a shift either from 11:30AM-2PM or 2PM-4:30PM

But any time at all would be helpful!

Contact Edna Early if you can help. (651-269-3408).



Readers Theater

What do we do with our Readers Theater?

We have secured the copyright for the script, so it now belongs to LWVSCV and is legally protected as such.

Some things to think about

- Do we want to have another round of public productions?
- Do we bring it to schools?
- Do we do a 'Lunch and Learn'?
- Do we try to promote it to other leagues?
- Do we do this live or use the video we have of it?

Please keep in mind that if we do it live again it will mean rehearsals- not as many as before but we would need to refresh. And we would probably need to replace some people...This doesn't mean we can't do it live again, just that we need to consider these things.

*I will be holding a zoom meeting to discuss the future of the Readers Theater property on
June 9th at 6:00pm.*

Please join me in a conversation about what to do with

“ Oh dear, what can the matter be, women are wanting to vote!”

Please email me if you want to attend so I can send you the zoom link.

vickiharmon@hotmail.com

Thanks all!

Vicki

Unite & Rise Updates, Resources, and Upcoming Opportunities



Observer Corps project - some information from the LWV that may be helpful. Most importantly, there is an opportunity for Observer Corps training put on by the National LWV that is open to anyone that wants to participate via zoom, July 22, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. Central time (our time). Please let Kay Brooks know if you want more information on the Observer Corps.

- Observer Corps programs help Leagues monitor local government meetings. Observer Corps can be an impactful way for local Leagues to increase transparency, track local decision-making, and strengthen civic participation. [Note: **Observer Corps programs are not part of the Election Observer program.**]

Resource: Starting an Observer Corps

Door County League (2010 Annual Meeting slideshow):

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/0B39anz2EGz6bNGt4a00yQ1d4M0k/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101932804240975931986&resourcekey=0-4VPV6vTCtKMOMUAAo9endO&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Upcoming LWVUS Observer Corps Training (July 2026)

Registration:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FnWX1DqaSMG-3Mhdbm3K2A#/registration

Thank you all for your continued advocacy and engagement. Please feel free to share these resources with others who may benefit.

Beth Wood, Captain LWVSCV Unite & Rise 8.5



Member Services

Contact (Kathy Streitz, kfstreitz@gmail.com)

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 projects and the small details.



As of this newsletter's publication, LWVSCV proudly counts 121 members. Most are active and current at this time. Some memberships have lapsed. Please check our membership list for your annual date. Let me know if you have questions about renewal.

The membership/renewal application is provided as an attachment to this newsletter for your convenience. Print the membership application from our website at lwvstcroixvalley.org, fill it out, and mail it to Katrina, our treasurer with a check for \$75.00 or fill out the membership application on our website and use a credit card to join. We do offer a \$20.00 minimum fee. Please let me know if you have questions. Feel free to share with friends!

Please join me in welcoming our newest member!

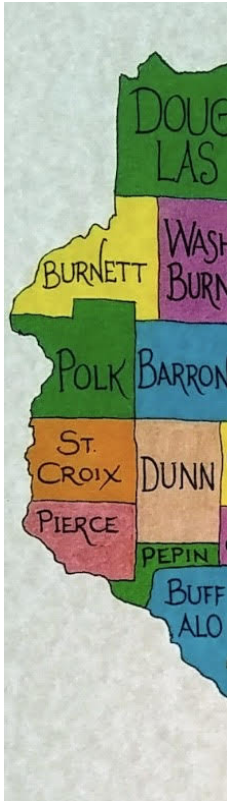
Jennifer Arriola, jennifer.s.arriola@gmail.com,

Jennifer lives in Dresser and is the newest member of HUB 2.

Linda Heyes, lfheyas@yahoo.com.

Linda lives in New Richmond and is the newest member of HUB 3.

Reach out to our new members near and far, in your HUB and beyond. Attend a coffee, a rally, a high school, a farmers market, Observer Core, June 14 Flag Day, June 20 Pride Fest and other gatherings! Don't forget to check on your neighbors and bring a friend!



HUB NEWS (Please watch 👁️ this newsletter for HUB news!!!!!!)

Our membership is divided into four geographical HUBz in order to organize and focus. Yet we can mix it up in our HUBz so all are welcome to visit anytime.

HUB 1 is in northern Polk and Burnett Counties and includes Frederic, Luck, Siren, Webster, Danbury, and Grantsburg area. **Contact Kris Surbaugh, aksurbaugh@gmail.com**

HUB 2 is in Polk County and includes Amery, St. Croix Falls, Osceola, Clayton, Turtle Lake, Milltown and surrounding areas. **Contact Irene Bugge, irenebugge@gmail.com**

HUB 3 is in St. Croix County and includes Deer Park, Star Prairie and the New Richmond area. **Contact Kay Brooks, kaybrooks48@gmail.com**

HUB 4 is in St. Croix County and includes Houlton, Hudson, River Falls, Baldwin, Woodville, and the Hammond area. **Contact Kathy Streitz, kfstreitz@gmail.com 612-916-8856**

HUB 1 NEWS—Burnett and Northern Polk Co



Hub 1 members Mary Karl and Kris Surbaugh kicked off the Farmers Market season by attending the Northwest Passage Gallery Friday Farmers Market in Webster. Over 35 Wisconsin residents stopped by to say hi and receive a free homemade cookie (thanks Mary!). Despite wind and rain it was a great morning talking to folks about voting, voter registration, and living in beautiful Wisconsin. A great way to start the summer. You will find us in Webster again on June 5 at the Gallery parking lot. Please stop by and say hi!

Contact Kris Surbaugh (text) 715-566-1186 if you wish to volunteer or have any questions.

Dates at Webster: June 5, June 26, July 10, July 31, August 7 from 10AM to 1PM.

HUB 2 NEWS Amery, Milltown, Clayton, St. Croix Falls, Osceola, Turtle Lake

The following Farmers Markets have been scheduled in HUB 2.

Amery Farmers Market -- Mondays, 3:00pm - 6:00pm -- Soo Line Park

Amery League Contacts/Leads – Angie Johnson, Pat Seidle

June 15

July 20

Aug 17

St. Croix Falls Farmers Market – Saturdays, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm – SCF Public Library Plaza

St Croix Falls Contact/Lead -- Nanette DelMonaco

June 13

July 11

Osceola Farmers Market – Fridays, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm, on River Street

Osceola Contact/Lead – Miriam Flysjo

July 3

Aug 8

If you are interested in volunteering to work at any of these markets, please reach out to the League contact/s for each market.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Nanette and Miriam, seasoned League members, for continuing to take leadership roles in St. Croix Falls and Osceola. Those two also back each other up – e.g. Miriam is helping Nanette with the June 13 market in St. Croix Falls. And a big thank you to newer members, Pat and Angie, for teaming up to lead in Amery.

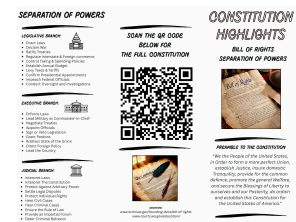
Irene Bugge

HUB 3 NEWS Deer Park, New Richmond, Star Prairie Contact Kay Brooks kaybrooks48@gmail.com

Our HUB is getting creative with outreach this summer, and we wanted to share some ideas that you may already be doing, or that might spark inspiration for your own HUB. We are focusing on meeting people where they already gather and offering diverse ways to engage.

Getting Creative with Community Engagement

Our HUB is getting creative with outreach this summer, and we wanted to share some ideas that you may already be doing, or that might spark inspiration for your own HUB. We are focusing on meeting people where they already gather and offering diverse ways to engage.



For public outreach, we're tabling at the Heritage Center farmers markets and the Hillside Series, and possibly participating in the New Richmond Fun Fest Parade. On the educational programming front, we're planning "Lunch and Learns" on topics like election integrity and local civil rights history, as well as library storytimes featuring voter education kits for

young children. We've also been working with Indivisible to create an Observer Corps where members attend city council, school board, and county board meetings.

What's making it work for us is many hands doing small tasks, partnering with like-minded organizations to amplify our presence, and keeping members energized through social gatherings. We encourage all HUBs to consider which of these activities might align with your community's existing events and resources—and we'd love to hear what's working in your area, too!

Kenzie Schuch

Please contact Karen Roberts if you can help with the farmers markets ([kmroberts82@gmail](mailto:kmroberts82@gmail.com)) and either Beth Wood (bwood@frontiernet.net) or Kay Brooks ([kaybrooks48@gamil.com](mailto:kaybrooks48@gmail.com)) if you can help with the Observer Corps.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all the HUB 3 volunteers who diligently folded approximately 600 Constitution Trifolds! What a group! The brochures will be used for multiple upcoming events.

Our June "coffee" will be a potluck picnic in Star Prairie at River Island Park. Save Thursday, June 25, at 5:00. Please bring an appetizer, your own beverage, and \$5 for pizza. If it's easy, throw in a chair.

DATE Thursday, June 25

TIME 5:00 - 6:30

PLACERiver Island Park, Star Prairie (the parking lot is behind the Apple River Inn on Hill Ave.

This time we could use an RSVP so that we know how much pizza to order. Contact Kay Brooks (kaybrooks48@gmail.com).

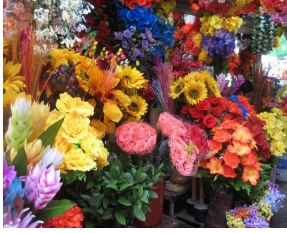
HUB 4 News—St. Croix County/Hudson Area

Contact Kathy Streitz kfstreitz@gmail.com, 612-916-8856

Thank you to Carol Skinner! Our visit to River Falls high School on May 21 was a great success. We had contact with 56 students and shared our enticing spinning wheel with candy prizes. Always a hit. The number one question of the day was... "What percentage of eligible voters actually voted in the 2024 election?" Answer, 41%.

The range is 90-100 million eligible voters in the United States did not vote in the 2024 election! Students were surprised and some guessed close to the correct answer. We encouraged students to share this statistic with family and friends and we shared election dates along with their school bookmark with the QR code linked to myvotewi.gov.

This site makes registering to vote quick and easy! High school visits are always joyful!



River Falls Farmers Market at Rush River Brewing!!

June 11 & July 9, 5:00-8:00 PM.

It's that time of year again! If you are interested in sharing voter information with friends in River Falls at Rush River Brewing Farmers Market, we are scheduling now!

Calling on HUB 4 and League members to join Sarah Anderson, Janet Ellinger, and Kathy Streitz to share voter information and work at the Rush River Brewery Farmers Market. We need two more helpers.

Please contact Kathy Streitz or Janet Elinger, kayak1019@gmail.com.

Rush River Brewery Farmers Market, River Falls

Thursday June 11

Thursday July 9

5:00 to 8:00pm

[Federal judge denies U.S. DOJ attempt to obtain Wisconsin voter data · Wisconsin Examiner](https://wisconsinexaminer.com/briefs/federal-judge-denies-u-s-doj-attempt-to-obtain-wisconsin-voter-data/)

<<https://wisconsinexaminer.com/briefs/federal-judge-denies-u-s-doj-attempt-to-obtain-wisconsin-voter-data/>>

Key Points:

- A federal judge ruled that the U.S. Department of Justice, under the Trump administration, cannot force Wisconsin to hand over unredacted voter records containing private information like Social Security numbers, birthdates, and driver's license details.
- The DOJ sued the Wisconsin Elections Commission after the commission refused to provide the full voter list and instead directed officials to the public redacted version already available under Wisconsin law.
- Voting rights groups including Law Forward and the American Civil Liberties Union praised the ruling, arguing the lawsuit could have threatened voter privacy and fueled false claims about widespread voter fraud.

What Can You Do?

- Stay engaged, attend public meetings, learn more about [Wisconsin Elections Commission](#)
- Stay apprised of key updates from partner organizations
 - Learn more about [Law Forward](#) and [follow](#) their work on social media
 - Learn more about [ACLU of WI](#) and [follow](#) their work on social media



On August 8, 2026, Leagues across the country are invited to take part in **Unite and Rise for Voting Rights, a National Day of Action** marking the legacy of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the ongoing work required to protect and expand access to the ballot.

This day serves as both a culmination of summer organizing and a launch point for intensified midterm mobilization, transforming individual acts of participation into shared, visible, and sustained civic action. While several cities will host larger signature events, the strength of this effort will come from Leagues in communities nationwide, leading locally rooted actions that engage new people and build momentum ahead of November.

June	1	Newsletter
	5	Farmers Market with Hub 1 Webster 10AM to 1PM Nancy Kolb and Pam Girtz
	14	Flag Day! HUDSON Lakefront Park NOON - 3PM
	17	Annual Picnic (south) Heritage Center Pavillion New Richmond 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
	18	June Board Meeting LWVSCV–ALL MEMBERS INVITED!
	19	Juneteenth
	20	Pride Event! Hudson Lakefront Park
	25	Hub 3 Picnic: River Island Park Star Prairie 5:00–6:30pm
	26	Farmers Market with Hub 1 Webster 10AM-1PM
July	1	Newsletter
	4	Independence day! 250 Years! Keep it up!!!
	15	Annual Summer Picnic (north) 5:00PM – 7:30PM In Frederic at the Community Pride Park on the corner of Traffic Ave. and Highway 48.
	22	OBSERVER CORP TRAINING VIA ZOOM 2PM (register here) https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FnWX1DqaSMG-3Mhdbm3K2A#/registration
August	1	Newsletter
	8	Unite and Rise National Day of Action!
	11	<i>Primary</i>
November	1	Newsletter
November	3	<i>General Election</i>

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>



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. It may include the name of a League member—but 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.

LEAGUE LEADERS WILL NEVER ASK YOU TO BUY GIFT CARDS OR TO SEND THEM MONEY!