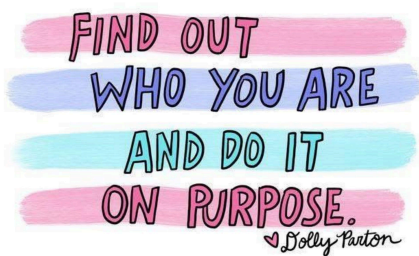




OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

September 1, 2026



Unite and Rise 8.5

As we continue to organize, plan, unite and rise in pursuit of fulfilling the LWV mission, I wanted to thank all of you for 'meeting the moment' and to share with you my favorite Dolly quote.

I see you pushing out of your comfort zone and trying new activities.

I see you welcoming in new faces and ideas.

I see you prioritizing the work of the league and showing up.

I am inspired and filled with gratitude.

Forward together.

Beth Wood co-President and Unite and Rise captain.



NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

The official date for NVRD this year is Tuesday, Sept. 15. We have participated in this special day for a number of years. Because HUBs 3 and 4 are hosting an Election Security event that evening, they may change the dates they call attention to voting to dates on either side of the 15th. Check with your HUB leader to see if there are plans for NVRD. Typically, we send voter registration/election information to libraries and colleges.



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. We honor those members who wish to donate only and all levels of engagement. Please let us know your wishes as far as level engagement in the LWVSCV.

Time to renew your membership?

As of this newsletter's publication, LWVSCV proudly counts 137 members. Most are active and current at this time. Some memberships have lapsed. Time to renew? Please check your email. I recently sent emails about memberships that have lapsed. We offer a sliding membership fee of \$20.00 – \$75.00. You can print the membership application from our website and mail it to Katrina with your check. Or fill out the application form as a renewal online at LWVUS. Renewing on line with LWVUS will offer automatic renewal.

Please let me know if you have questions. It is easy to miss a renewal date and I am here to help. There are about 15 members on our list who need to renew. Note: You are always welcome to attend LWVSCV gatherings as a member or as a friend.

Bring A Friend! 🌻

Feel free to invite friends to join our chapter. Reach out to our new members near and far, in your HUB and beyond. Attend a coffee, a rally, a high school or college visit, a farmers market, a Lunch and Learn, a community speaker, or any of our gatherings. Don't forget to bring a friend!

Please watch 👁️ this newsletter for HUB news and gatherings!

One of our primary goals before the election is to make voters aware of the three amendments that will be on their ballot. The State League has gone to a lot of work to explain their ramifications, particularly for the Anti-Equity Constitutional Amendment.

Our webmaster, Evanne Hunt, has just posted great information on our website, including a great video. Anytime you have a chance, let people know about the Amendments and steer them to our website. They will find valuable information there!

<https://lwwstcroixvalley.org/>

HUB NEWS!

Our membership is divided into four geographical HUBz. We mix it up in our HUBz and all are welcome to visit anytime.

HUB 1 is in northern Polk and Burnett counties, including the Frederic, Webster, Siren, Danbury 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 which includes New Richmond, Star Prairie, Somerset, and Deer Park 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.

HUB 1 NEWS: Webster, Siren, Danbury, Grantsburg, Frederic, Luck
(contact Kris Surbaugh <aksurbaugh@gmail.com> for Hub 1 information)

Hub 1 is gearing up for fall by presenting several educational opportunities here 'up north'.

October Ed Fest at the Frederic Public Library (Polk County)

Thursday evenings from 6:00–8:00 PM Light refreshments served

October 1: Election Integrity with Shabana Lundeen

October 8: Why do Amendments Matter? Dr Neil Kraus UWRF

October 15: The Return of the SAVE Act–Karrie Weaver

October 22: Why a non-partisan permanent redistricting committee? Fair Maps Coalition of Wisconsin

Burnet County Government Center

October 13: Election Integrity Wanda Hinrichs 6PM–8:00PM

October 24: What's on our ballot? (more info coming)

All are welcome and encouraged to spread the word.

Look for printable posters in the Sept 15 newsletter.

Hub 2 NEWS Amery, Milltown, Clear Lake, St. Croix Falls, Osceola, Turtle Lake Contact, Irene Bugge, irenebugge@gmail.com



Amery Farmers Market, August 17. Angie Johnson, Pat Seidl and Wanda Brown staffed the League table at Soo Line Park in Amery– 86 people, 53 adults and 33 children, stopped by the booth. The kids enjoyed spinning the wheel, answering civics questions and winning prizes. Many of the adults left with voter information and in particular the WI 2026 Constitutional Amendment Guide trifold.

Farmers Market Debrief. On August 24, **Pat Seidle, Miriam Flysjo, Angie Johnson, and Irene Bugge** gathered at the Amery Library to talk about the new spinning wheel questions trial. Pat had reorganized the questions by grade/age and all present had had a chance to try out the new format. There was consensus that the reorganization was helpful. There was agreement that better questions were needed for children ages 3–8. Miriam brought several suggested questions for this age group. The use of multiple-choice answers was also discussed. Pat plans to revise the questions one more time and then use the new set at the September 21 Farmers Market in Amery – the last HUB 2 market of the season. *Irene would like to thank Pat, Angie, Miriam and Nanette for their leadership with the markets this summer.*



Upcoming Farmers Markets

- **SEPT. 12 St Croix Falls Farmers Market** – Saturday, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm – SCF Public Library Plaza St Croix Falls – **Wanda Brown plus other volunteers, TBD**** *If you are interested in volunteering to work with Wanda at the SCF market, please contact her at wfbrown41@gmail.com.*

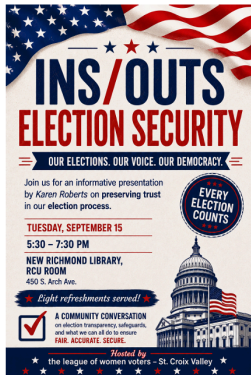
- **SEPT. 21 Amery Farmers Market** -- Monday, 3:00pm - 6:00pm -- Soo Line Park -- Angie Johnson and Pat Seidl.

Upcoming HUB 2 Events

- **OCT. 7 -- Get-out the Vote Postcard Writing Gathering**, Wednesday, 11:00 – 12:30. River Stone Bookshop 205 N. Cascade St. Osceola. Lunch afterward at Watershed Café for those interested. *Put this on your calendar today, please join us and bring a friend.*
 - **OCT. 19 -- Election Integrity Presentation**, Monday, 6:30 – 8:00 with Shabana Lundeen – St Croix Falls Library. Co-sponsored with Polk Burnett Indivisible. League Lead: Barb Katt. *We are encouraging all HUB 2 members to attend this program.*
-

HUB 3 NEWS: New Richmond, Star Prairie, Somerset, Deer Park

. Contact, Kay Brooks, kaybrooks48@gmail.com.



ELECTION SECURITY EVENT— SEPT. 15

All members are invited to this important event, to be held in New Richmond! Please come to support Karen Roberts with her presentation on Sept. 15.

Michelle Scanlan, New Richmond City Clerk, will be available to answer audience questions. **Let's have a great LWVSCV presence!** (details in the flyer)

HELP Requested on Tuesday, September 15 for the Election Security event!!

All HUB 3 and 4 members are requested to help with event needs. They will be receiving an email with a list of specifics, including set up and clean up, hosting (2), tabling (2), and snack/drink options such as cheese/meat/cookies/bars and more. We need your support!

Members can reply by text or email to:

Mary Jo Krueger
Kay Brooks

mjAVkrueger@icloud.com
kaybrooks48@gmail.com

715-497-3429
715-381-8879

LIBRARY DISPLAY

Special thanks to Susan Sroka and Linda Heyes. Our LWVSCV display in the Somerset Library for the month of August, ended its run on August 31st. Any HUB that would like to use or replicate the display is welcome to do so. We also encourage anyone to use our Voting Kit for library story times. You would be reading stories and doing a simple voting activity for pre-schoolers for about 15 minutes. The librarian would likely finish out the time.

Contact Kay Brooks (kaybrooks48@gmail.com) for either of these worthwhile activities. (just send a picture)

FARMERS MARKETS

Thanks to Jennifer Struss, Peg Wastell, and Karen Roberts for taking time out of their Saturday on August 22 to set up a table at the Heritage Center! They spread our message to dozens of market goers. The next time will be on Saturday, September 12th.

DINNER "COFFEE"

Hub 3 is planning a get-together for **Wednesday, September 9 from 5-6:30 at Mitchell's in New Richmond**. It's hidden away at 156 High St. Turn to the West at the old train depot and then take the 1st left. We hope some of our members that work during the day will be able to join us. If you are not familiar with Mitchell's, it's a cocktail lounge. Make it what you want. You can bring your own snacks, stop at a restaurant and bring it with you to eat there or order pizza there if you want supper while we socialize. They have a wide variety of beverages (alcoholic and nonalcoholic).

Please let us know if you can join us.

Contact Karen Greenberg [651-249-3249](tel:651-249-3249) or Kay Brooks ([715-381-8879](tel:715-381-8879)).

BRING A FRIEND OR PERSON INTERESTED IN THE LEAGUE!



LOOKING AHEAD

HUBs 3 and 4 will be hosting a second event on Wednesday, October 21. Prof. Neil Kraus, political science professor from UWRF, will speak about the three proposed Amendments that will be on the November ballot. This event will be held from 5:30-7:00 at the Unitarian Church in River Falls. More details to come. A big thank you to Janet Ellinger for setting this up!

HUB 4 News—St. Croix County/Hudson Area

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

Judy Green - jfqlag@yahoo.com, 612-513-1818

Liz Bruch - drlizbruch@gmail.com, 715-220-7327

Janet Lestock - janetblestock@gmail.com, 507-213-6016

COFFEE Follow-up 8/26/26

Our coffee at the Hudson Library last week was well attended. Thank you to Jan Strommen, Evanne Hunt, Cathy Boehm, Judy Green, Kay Brooks, Janet Lestock, Nancy Gilland, Kathy Roberts, Ramona Hoffman, Janet Ellinger, and Carol Skinner for being there to strategize on actions we will take to educate and support democracy! We contemplated a list of places in our communities to disperse election flyers, amendment trifold, and event fliers. Consider places where you can post and leave fliers. For example the Starbucks in River Falls will allow fliers and brochures to be left on the cash register counter.

October 21 Educational Event at the Unitarian Church in River Falls

This flier will be ready for distribution soon! Thanks to Janet Ellinger and Jan Strommen for organizing the October 21 educational event. Professor Kraus from UW River Falls will be the featured speaker. The topic will be “Three Constitutional Amendments”, which will appear on our November 3rd ballot and will be held at the Unitarian Church in River Falls. We will need volunteers for this event. Contact Janet Ellinger or Kathy Streitz with commitments.

Communications within HUB 4

Communication within our large hub of 40 members is a dilemma. We will start a TEXT thread. Thank you Judy Green for this work! Emails reach about 1/3 of our HUB 4 members. Phone calls help too. We are on a continual journey to reach and involve members. Should we have evening meetings? Saturday meetings? Let us know what is best for you. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Questions??? from our Coffee

Who wrote the constitutional amendments?

Did our state reps. vote for the amendments?

Why are the clerk and sheriff positions partisan in St. Croix County?

CAR POOLS Kathy Roberts brought up Car Pools as a need and we would like to see that need met. Please contact Kathy Roberts, Ramona Hoffman, Janet Lestock, and Kathy Streitz if you would like to join a car pool to get a ride to LWVSCV gatherings. 🚗

Big Thanks to...Kathy Roberts and Judy Green for organizing our Coffee at the Hudson Library, Jan Strommen for picking up fliers at the printshop, our members for plans for dispersing fliers, and to Judy Green for creating an oversized poster regarding the 3 upcoming constitutional amendments. 📖

Celebrating National Voter Registration Day!

HUB 4 High School Visits (sometime during weeks of September).

Contact the following members if you are willing to visit a high school and share voter registration materials with seniors.

Hudson High School – Contact Janet Lestock, janetblestock@gmail.com

River Falls High School & St. Croix Central High School– Contact Carol Skinner, cskinner@skinnerlaw.com

Baldwin/Woodville High School – Contact Kathy Streitz.

Hudson Farmers Market on Carmichael

Please join Judy Green, Liz Bruch, Cathy Boehm, and Kathy Streitz. Bring a chair! We welcome you to stop by or sit a while with us as we share voter information with community members.

Our next market date will be September 12, 7:40 to noon.

Please contact Kathy Streitz if you are interested in working.

We do need helpers to break up the time.

7:40 to set-up. 10 - 12:00 to be there and clean-up.

At our last farmers market we engaged with 87 community members! Many had questions about the Constitutional amendments, Primary Election, where to register, where to vote, and how to learn about candidates.

Sharing information about MyVoteWI.gov & VOTE411.gov (LWV) is a great help to interested voters! These sites offer election information we need, available in English and Spanish. Check voter registration, find your polling place, learn about candidates, and more.

Participation at Farmers Markets provides a joyful, easy way to engage with community members and share voter information! Our bright spinner, civics questions for all ages, and candy prizes are popular! And there is always something fun to see—last time there was a vendor with free kittens!

NEXT HUB 4 GATHERING!

Our next HUB 4 gathering will be the Educational Event at the New Richmond Library, 9/15, 5:30-7:30
“INS/OUTS ELECTION SECURITY”.

Please plan to attend and help fill the volunteer spots. See you there!

LEAGUE LEADERS **WILL NEVER** ASK YOU TO BUY GIFT CARDS, PAY LEAGUE BILLS, OR TO SEND THEM MONEY!

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 where 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.

(REMEMBER—WE HAVE A TREASURER WHO HAS AN OFFICIAL ACCOUNT WHO TAKES CARE OF ALL LEAGUE BUSINESS!!!)

 LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
OF WISCONSIN

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Damaging Consequences of the Anti-Equity Constitutional Amendment

 September 8  6:30 PM



Rachel Snyder
Law Forward



Suzanne Eckes
UW-Madison



Kadijha Marquardt-Davis
Petty Justice, LLC

Register here: bit.ly/whatyouneedtoknow-webinar

What you need to know - Damaging Consequences of the Anti-Equity Constitutional Amendment Webinar

Join us and our panel of guest speakers to learn more about the anti-equity constitutional amendment appearing on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

Wisconsin voters will decide on a constitutional amendment that could have significant impacts on public education, employment, contracting, and government programs across the state. While the ballot language references discrimination and preferential treatment, the proposed amendment would also limit the use of certain equity-focused policies and programs.

Webinar Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Current speakers include:

- Rachel Snyder - Law Forward, Policy Counsel
- Suzanne Eckes - UW Madison, Susan S. Engeleiter Professor of Education Law, Policy, and Practice
- Kadijha Marquardt-Davis - Strategic Health Policy Leader

Meeting Registration - Zoom

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/qDeUHa_RRgiTWZbkNKliPQ#/registration

Find more information here: LWV WI Constitutional Corner

https://us.list-manage.com/Fx2f_pkV71g?e=7043d919d6&c2id=f32730a83833293510fd6cfe8afd93e5

Anti-equity Constitutional Amendment Toolkit:

<https://us.list-manage.com/jvbiyoPIFrR?e=7043d919d6&c2id=f32730a83833293510fd6cfe8afd93e5>



OUR >>>>>>>> WISCONSIN PEOPLE'S PLATFORM

— A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT OF —



Our Wisconsin People's Platform: Coalition launches community survey to shape Wisconsin's policy and future

Wisconsin stands at a pivotal moment. For more than a decade, communities and their chosen leaders have worked to advance solutions to some of our most pressing challenges - but opportunities for meaningful action have often been limited.

We believe that Wisconsinites want, above all else, real solutions to improve all of our lives everywhere. So who better to bring to the table as we craft Our Wisconsin People's Platform? That's why we're launching our Community Questionnaire and we hope you'll spend a few minutes sharing your thoughts, concerns, hopes, and dreams for Wisconsin.

Responses will be collected until Tuesday, September 15 at 8:00pm.

Our Wisconsin People's Platform Community Questionnaire — We Believe in Wisconsin
<https://www.webelieveinwi.org/owpp-communitysurvey>



MARK YOUR CALENDAR ...

Pam Girtz and Carolyn Saunders invite you to our League's second POTLUCK PICNIC which will be held on Wednesday, September 30th, 5:00-7:00pm, at the Community Pride Park in downtown Frederic, WI.

(This picnic replaces the July picnic we had to cancel due to extreme heat and unhealthy smoky air.)

We will provide pulled pork sandwiches (made by our favorite "Chef Roxanne"), as well as a variety of beverages, including wine, and dinnerware. Donations of side dishes and desserts would be appreciated.

Even though this picnic is often referred to as our "Up North Picnic", all League members, family and friends are invited to attend.

By the end of September, you can delight in the changing colors of fall as you drive north. You can experience the whispering of pine trees and the scent of "home fires burning" to keep our homes warm. Life is good "up north" in the fall! Come and see for yourselves!

Our League picnics also offer an opportunity to meet up with old friends, make new friends, catch up on what has made our League more visible, what we have accomplished during the summer, and learn about upcoming opportunities.

**Please RSVP to Carolyn Saunders at
csaunders1949@yahoo.com
by Friday, September 25th.**

We hope to see you all in Frederic on September 30th.

September	1	Newsletter
	1	LWVGCV Voter Registration Training 6:00 - 7:15 via Zoom.
	8	LWV WI Zoom about Damaging Consequences of Anti-Equity Amendment: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/qDeUHa_RRgiTWZbkNKliPQ#/registr ation
	9	Hub 3 Coffee at Mitchell's in New Richmond 5:00 to 6:30

	12	St Croix Falls Farmers Market – Saturday, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm – SCF Public Library Plaza St Croix Falls – Wanda Brown plus other volunteers, TBD** If you are interested in volunteering to work with Wanda at the SCF market, please contact Irene ASAP at irenebugge@gmail.com.
	12	Hudson Farmers Market on Carmichael 7:40 AM - Noon
	12	HUB 3 Heritage Farmers' Market in New Richmond 8:00-1:00
	14	National Voters Registration Day at Chippewa Valley Tech 10AM-12 Noon
	15	Newsletter
	15	Election Security Event at 5:30-7:00 in New Richmond Library Building
	15	National Voter Registration Day Activities planned independently by each HUB.
	15	LWVSCV Board Meeting
	21	Amery Farmers Market -- Mondays, 3:00pm - 6:00pm -- Soo Line Park Amery – Angie Johnson and Pat Seidl.
	22	HUB 3 Heritage Farmers' Market in New Richmond 8:00-1:00
	22	Heritage Days in New Richmond. Information table planned by HUB 3
	30	Up North Potluck Picnic Frederic RSVP Carolyn Saunders <csaunders1949@yahoo.com>
October	1	Newsletter
	1	Election Integrity with Shabana Lundeen at the Frederic Public Library 6PM
	7	Get Out the Vote Postcard Writing in Osceola (see Hub 2 report)
	8	Guest speaker Dr. Neil Kraus (UWRF) at the Frederic Public Library 6PM
	13	Election Integrity with Wanda Hinrichs Burnett County Clerk @ Burnett County Courthouse 6PM Room
	15	Newsletter
	15	Karrie Weaver presents "The Save (America) Act– What can possibly go wrong? Frederic Public Library 6PM
	19	Election Integrity Presentation with Shabana Lundeen – SCF Library, October 19. Possible co-sponsorship with Polk Burnett Indivisible. 6:30PM
	20	LWVSCV Board Meeting
	21	Dr Neil Kraus "Why Amendments Matter" Unitarian Church River Falls

	22	Fair Maps Coalition "What is a Permanent Redistricting Solution to end Gerrymandering" Frederic Public Library 6PM
November	1	Newsletter
	3	<u>General Election</u>
	14	<u>LWVSCV Retreat</u>
	15	Newsletter

Guidance: Navigating Nonpartisanship During Election Cycles

When candidates are running for office, our nonpartisan stance is clear and firm: We do not endorse or oppose any candidate or political party. Through state and local voter guides and VOTE411, Leagues work tirelessly to solicit and gather answers from tens of thousands of candidates around critical community questions.

These include questions about voting rights, climate change, reproductive rights, inflation, immigration enforcement practices, federal checks and balances, and more issues that affect the lives of Americans. These questions help voters decide on which candidate reflects their values and community needs. And while we provide voters with information on where candidates stand on key issues, host nonpartisan forums, and work to ensure every eligible voter has access to the ballot, our goal is to empower voters with facts, not to tell them who to vote for.

We Are Nonpartisan, Not Neutral

Remaining nonpartisan does not mean staying silent. When democracy itself is under threat, when voter access is restricted, or when misinformation spreads, we have a responsibility to speak out — clearly and forcefully. Our nonpartisan

commitment strengthens our voice, allowing us to advocate for fundamental rights and freedoms without being seen as beholden to any political agenda.

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>