LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF ST. CROIX VALLEY

OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

October 15, 2026



SIGNS UP for November 3 2026 General Election

•Vote from Home signs can be put out immediately - Pick up on Tuesday, October 20

•Vote Tuesday signs should be put out on Wednesday, October 28 - Pick up on Wednesday, November 4

•Thank You Election Workers can be put out on Wednesday, November 4 - Pick up on Tuesday, November 10

Do you need a yard sign?

Let Katrina Larsen, katrina_larsen@yahoo.com, 715-338-6820, know if you would like a Vote Tuesday sign. She will make arrangements to get it to you.

Mark your calendars for an all-member retreat on Saturday, November 14, 9AM-12PM, at the Senior Center in the Osceola, WI Village Hall.

Help us determine our future leadership structure. We need and want your input!

If you have time after the retreat, plan to join us for lunch in Osceola. This social time will give us a chance to discuss the results of the election.

Details to come.



Opportunities for LWVSCV to participate in the national **No Kings - Early Vote** events the weekend of October 17-18. Please reach out to your HUB leader to organize or just show up with a sign focusing on Get Out the Vote! and specifically **VOTE EARLY*.** **(vote early in Wisconsin means absentee voting)**

A great way to join in community and engagement. This event is supported by the LWV and our LWVSCV encourages members to attend an event near you. See the following locations and times:

Saturday, October 17- W. Division Street & North Main Street, River Falls 10:30-12:30
Saturday, October 17 - stoplights in Siren 1-2:30
Saturday, October 17 - stoplights at Dicks Market and Post Office, New Richmond 12-1:30
Sunday, October 18 - Hwy 8 Bridge over the St Croix River 1-3

VOTER SERVICES

- HUBs are busy with the last farmers markets, the start of high school contacts, and community educational events before the November election.
- Members are encouraged to put out **VOTE FROM HOME** signs and send email blitzes with election information, encouraging people to vote.
- On Wednesday, October 28, VOTE FROM HOME signs can be exchanged for **VOTE TUESDAY** signs.
- Members also could make VOTE EARLY signs on their own, as we really would like to promote that as well. Early voting opens at polling places on October 23.
- HUB members have been helping to post flyers regarding the election and the Amendments.

LWVSCV Unite Rise collaboration with GROWW and Indivisible



On October 6, members of the LWVSCV joined GROWW and Indivisible members in attending the St Croix County Board of Supervisors meeting to extend our support for a fair and secure election on Nov 3. We offered our thanks to poll workers, clerks and elected officials and indicated our trust in

their ability to administer the election with integrity while also reminding them of the oath all involved take to uphold the Constitution. Prior to the start of the meeting the County Board Chair greeted Beth, Kay, Kathy and Mary Jo (all easily identified in our lavender shirts) and invited us to hand out the Constitution booklets and election information flyers that we have brought. We were able to personally engage with each Board member before the meeting was called to order. 4 members of the collaboration spoke; Beth Wood (LWVSCV), Grace Coggio, Pam Quinn (GROWW), and Julie Stucky (NR Indivisible). If you would like to watch the comments to get a feel for the focus of the first phase of the Hands Off Our Votes initiative you can watch the video on YouTube. St Croix County Board of Supervisors 10-6-26. Comments start at 7:20 and end at 20:00. The Civic Action coalition will continue to meet, strategize and prepare for a collective response should the need arise for immediate action following the November 3 election. If you would like to be a part of this group contact Beth Wood, Kay Brooks or Kathy Streitz.

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. 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. Please email suggestions regarding membership ideas and ways we can improve our communication. We are always willing to listen and grow! Every life we touch is remembered! Sometimes, the most difficult and most fulfilling choice is to show up!

Time to renew your membership?
As of this newsletter's publication, LWVSCV proudly counts 111 members. Most are active and current at this time. Some memberships have lapsed. Time to renew? We offer a sliding membership fee of $20.00 - $75.00. You can renew online at **LWVUS.** Renewing on line with **LWVUS** will offer automatic renewal. Chapter Spot which has our roster at the LWVUS level will email you with 30 and 60 day past due reminders. After 60 days you are removed from the national list. Thank you for checking your renewal date. Please let me know if you have questions. It is easy to miss a renewal date and I am here to help. 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 in on a gathering and to join our chapter. Reach out to our new members 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. All are welcome!

NEW MEMBERS
Please welcome our new member, Gail Everhart, getoteach@gmail.com. Gail lives in New Richmond and will be in HUB 3. We look forward to having you in our League family, Gail!

HUB NEWS!

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

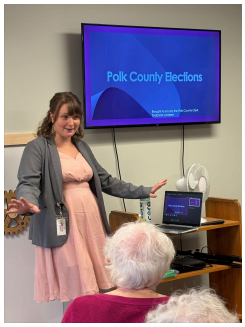
HUB 1 is in northern Polk and Burnett counties, including the Frederic, Webster, Siren, Danbury area. Contact, Kris Surbaugh, aksurbaugh@gmail.com

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, RiverFalls, Baldwin, Woodville, and the Hammond area. Contact, Kathy Streitz, kfstreitz@gmail.com.

HUB 1 *Northern Polk and Burnett County*



October Ed-Fest



Week 1 of October Ed-Fest at the Frederic Public Library kicked off with Shabana Lundeen, Polk County Clerk, taking us through all the steps required to cast, count, and validate our votes. The checks and balances are enough to ensure that each vote is legitimate and each voter is qualified.

Week 2 continued the discussion with Karrie Weaver, Election Judge and attorney from Hudson as she tracked the laws and requirements already in place for citizens and the possible unintended outcomes if the SAVE act is passed. A thoroughly informative evening and Karrie is a clear and wonderful speaker! Check out last year's presentation by Karrie on our website <https://lwvstcroixvalley.org/voting-rights/>

Special Thanks to Marie Engdahl, Nancy Stewart, and librarians Jim Schott and Marlene Nelson and Director Heather Marek who all pitched in to help! Many hands make light work!

Week 3 moves into the murky ground of proposed amendments on the ballot with Dr Neal Kraus of UWRF. Dr Kraus will take us through the history and complexities of amendments on the ballots.

Join us tonight at the Frederic Public Library
127 Oak St West, Frederic, WI. at 6PM.
Light refreshments will be available.

Week 4 On Thursday, October 22, we welcome Nicole Gabrail from Fair Maps to hear about why we need to establish a permanent bi-partisan, stand alone commission to determine our voting districts in Wisconsin.

Join Us! (bring a friend)



Hub 1 members gathered at Kris Surbaugh's home to fill out 100 postcards to encourage voting during the midterm elections.
The voter roll used targets voters who tend to 'skip' midterm elections. As we know, this election is too important to skip!



Members Kathy Surbaugh, Marie Engdahl, Mary Karl, Shirley Crowe, and guest Kate Curnow, wrote personal entreaties encouraging voters to register, get educated, and VOTE!

The Burnett County Event on October 13 at the BC Government Center brought a small crowd to listen to –Election Security! With Wanda Hinrichs.

Wanda has been with Burnett County for 29 years and 20+ of those years as County Clerk. Her knowledge of the development of modern election integrity and security systems and all the myriad details that attend each election cycle was simply encyclopedic.

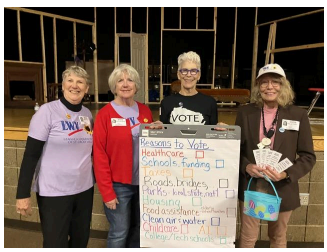
Wanda is a prime example of the work that our municipal and county clerks maintain to keep Wisconsin secure.

The League of Women Voters St Croix Valley applauds all election/poll workers and the patience, knowledge and the integrity that they display during each election cycle. Thank your poll worker today! And if anyone questions you about the integrity of our elections? Just send them to Wanda!

Thank you to Patti Hurd, Carole McIntyre and Diane Crane for supporting this program.

HUB 2 NEWS-

Student Outreach at Amery High School



On October 1, **Angie Johnson and Janet Anderson** with the assistance of **Rita Kearns, Patty Van Nevel, and Deb Trauley** informed **86 members of the senior class at Amery High School** about voting. The

presentation included why you should vote, whose voice gets heard, researching candidates and issues, and how to register. At the end, students played the Spinning Wheel Civics Game. A survey was administered, which indicated that 82% of the seniors are likely or highly likely to vote and included many favorable comments. One student said, **"Thank you for coming. I think this info is very important. I appreciate your time and effort. I cannot wait to vote and this was helpful!"**

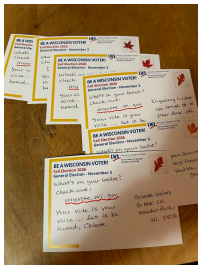




I would like to extend a big thank you to Angie Johnson and Janet Anderson. Angie, a former educator with extensive curriculum development experience built upon a curriculum put together by Kay Brooks and Janet Anderson. Angie made a few tweaks including the evaluation component and then she and Janet, also an enthusiastic educator, tag-teamed to present this redesigned curriculum.

Rita Kearnes and Patty VanNevel, who are interested in bringing this curriculum to their HUB, were able to see Angie and Janet in action. They now have a copy of the new curriculum. Angie is open in the future to train other League members to use this curriculum for student outreach. Great inter-HUB teamwork! I am thrilled that Angie has found her niche in the League that builds upon her passions and skills sets.

Irene Bugge



Postcard Writing Gathering.

Ten volunteers -- nine LWV SCV members and one friend of the League wrote personal messages, stamped and stickered 200 postcards at the Wilberg Public Library in Osceola October 7. Half of the postcards promoted VOTE 411 and the importance of being an informed voter. The other 100 were about the Anti-Equity Amendment. After completing all of the postcards in under 1.5 hours, a large contingent gathered at the Watershed Café.

Participants included: Angie Johnson, Pat Seidle, Amy Broich, Carolyn Saunders, Cindy Glocke, Deb Traule, Kathie Nelson, Miriam Flysjo, Nanette DelMonaco, Lee Ann Overman and Irene Bugge. Special thanks to Angie for bringing pumpkin bread.







Upcoming HUB 2 Events ·

OCT. 18 - National No Kings - Early Vote Event -- Hwy 8 Bridge over the St Croix River on Sunday, 1-3. Wear your League hats/T-shirts and bring signs encouraging Voting or specifically VOTE EARLY* -- the theme of these events. Gather with other league members.

OCT. 19 -- Election Integrity Presentation, Monday, 6:30 – 8:00 pm 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.

OCT 19 – Town Hall for Assembly District 75 Candidates, Monday, 7:00 pm, Luck High School. Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics class, led by Morgan Heichel-Lindgren. LWV SCV will have a table at this student-led Town Hall.

HUB 3 NEWS—*New Richmond, Somerset, Star Prairie, Deer Park*

Yours truly missed the October 1st Newsletter deadline, here is what has gone on for the last month.



POSTCARD COFFEE

Our postcard coffee on Wednesday, October 7th was a great success. We met at the New Richmond Library and filled the room. The 12 members had a productive session, full of both serious and fun discussion. 100 postcards, calling attention to the 3rd Amendment (resolution) on the Wisconsin ballot were completed.



HERITAGE DAYS on Saturday, September 26

Volunteers Jarell Kuney, Gail Everhart, Linda Heyes, Peg Wastell, and Karen Roberts did a great job of talking to over 100 visitors about voting and the elections.

FARMERS MARKETS AND HIGH SCHOOL VISITS3

At the end of September, Karen Roberts had a great season of farmers markets. Thank you, Karen!

Patty Van Nevel and Rita Kearns are gearing up to visit high schools in our HUB area.

TABLING AT UWRF

Edna Early, Katrina Larsen, and Kathy Kraemer shared voter information at the University of Wisconsin-RIver Falls on Monday, October 5.

ELECTION SECURITY EVENT on National Voter Registration Day, September 15

Karen Roberts' presentation, supported by New Richmond City Clerk, Michelle Scanlan, was a rousing success! We filled a room that holds 60 people with members of the public and a good League showing. Not only was Karen's power point very

well done and informative, but the discussion that followed was all that we could have hoped for. The audience was very engaged and everyone left, feeling a greater sense of having secure elections. Thank you so much, Karen!

As always, our League members didn't disappoint. Thank you to all who brought snacks and beverages. It was stellar!



A HUGE THANK YOU to Mary Jo Krueger and Linda Heyes for the VOTE EARLY signs they made for the upcoming NO KINGs rally!

HUB 4 News: *Houlton, Hudson, RiverFalls, Baldwin, Woodville, and the Hammond area*

Contacts: Kathy Streitz kfstreitz@gmail.com, 612-916-8856
Judy Green - jfglag@yahoo.com, 612-513-1818
Liz Bruch - drlizbruch@gmail.com, 715-220-7327
Janet Lestock - janetblestock@gmail.com, 507-213-6016

Changing the Wisconsin Constitution is a BIG DEAL! 👀

Wednesday, October 21 Educational Event at the Unitarian Church in River Falls
HUBs 3 & 4 are in charge of this event!
Professor Neil Kraus from U of WI River Falls Political Science Dept. will be the featured speaker and will explore and explain the three amendments. We are looking forward to community conversation.

The topic will be "Three Constitutional Amendments", which will appear on our November 3rd ballot.
10/21 5:30 - 7:00
Unitarian Universalist Society River Falls
N8010 WI-65
River Falls

☒ ***Volunteers Needed*** *Text Kathy at 612-916-8856*
Areas of need are:
Publicity- Please continue your awesome job of distributing event flyers. There is one attached to this newsletter.
Bars or cookies - We need 5 more members to bring one dozen cookies or bars.

CAR POOLS *Kathy Roberts brought up Car Pools as a need and here we go! Please meet at First Presbyterian Church in Hudson at 4:00 on 10/21 if you would like to carpool to this event. Address- 1901 Vine St. Hudson.*

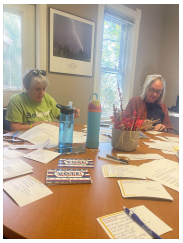
Thanks to Kay Brooks, Janet Ellinger, Jan Strommen, and Katrina Larsen for organizing the October 21 educational event.

Postcard Writing Follow-up
HUB 4 gathered at the office of Carol Skinner in Hudson on October 7.



Thank you Carol for inviting us to your historic office space. We gathered and wrote 232 postcards, mailed them with League hope and promise of reaching new voters!





Thanks to Carol Skinner, Mary Muchlinski, Kathy Roberts, Cathy Boehm, and Janet Ellington for writing and mailing postcards to VOTERS! Every gathering is a treasure as we get to know the fierce, determined women in HUB 4! Thanks to all!

High School Visits

Our high school visits happen over the seniors lunch hour and are always joyful with the enthusiasm of our youth. Their questions and comments about voting, elections, and governing are always inspiring. We offer our spinning wheel, a civics question and candy as a prize which always brings lively discussion.

10/22 River Falls High School Visit, Cathy Boehm and myself.

10/27 Baldwin-Woodville High School, Karen Magnuson, Denise Flaherty, and myself. Please let me know if you would like to join us on either visit.

October	15	Newsletter
	15	Guest speaker Dr. Neil Kraus (UWRF) at the Frederic Public Library 6PM
	17	**No Kings Rally!** See article for location details **River Falls**: 10:30AM – 12:30PM **Siren**: 1-2:30 PM

		New Richmond: 12PM–1:30PM
	18	**No Kings Rally!** See article for location details **St Croix Falls**: 1-3PM
	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 Polk County residents/members to attend this program.
	19	**Town Hall for Assembly District 75 Candidates, Monday, 7:00 pm, Luck High School. Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics class, led by Morgan Heichel-Lindgren PUBLIC WELCOME!**
	20	LWVSCV Board Meeting **Oct. 20 Early Voting. Approximate date by which all absentee ballots should be mailed.**
	21	Dr Neil Kraus "Why Amendments Matter" Unitarian Church River Falls
	22	High School Visit River Falls
	22	Fair Maps Coalition "What is a Permanent Redistricting Solution to end Gerrymandering" Frederic Public Library 6PM
	27	Baldwin Woodville High School visit
	28	**Oct. 28 Trade VOTE TUESDAY signs for VOTE FROM HOME signs**
November	3	***General Election***
	6	***Newsletter!***
	14	***LWVSCV Retreat***

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!!!)

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>

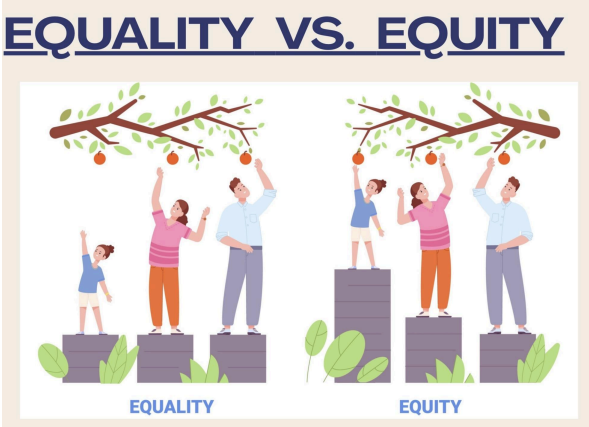
Communications & Media Chair **Kris Surbaugh** <aksurbaugh@gmail.com>

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>



Women don't express leadership through hierarchy. Patriarchy is a pyramid, with the few in power at top; it's built on hierarchy, dominance, and violence. Matriarchy is a circle and centers children and the most vulnerable; it's built on connection, collaboration, and consensus.