



The Voter

News for LWV Minneapolis Members and Friends

Volume 74, Issue 5

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September Topic

Making Democracy Work for All

The League of Women Voters is uniquely positioned to aggressively promote *Making Democracy Work for All*, the LWV program that encompasses repairing and modernizing the Voting Rights Act, strengthening laws that govern money in politics, fair redistricting, improving election/voting laws, and registering and engaging voters in the process.

At the September *Civic Buzz* and unit meetings, members will address voter service opportunities as well as the pros and cons of ballot initiatives.

Minnesota makes voter registration available online as well as on paper, with forms and information available from the [Secretary of State's website](#). Registration can also be completed on Election Day at the polls.

The opportunity for early voting is limited and currently is available only by absentee ballot; Minneapolis has five in-person absentee voting locations in addition to absentee voting by mail. Minnesota does **not** have online voting.

Minnesota has been successful in defeating strict voter ID laws that could result in voter suppression. In other states, a number of laws that make voting more difficult have been passed since the *Shelby County v. Holder* Supreme Court decision in 2013.

Courts have recently struck down these efforts in several states. The Voting Rights Advancement Act needs to be passed to ensure fair and accurate elections for citizens in all states.

For registration questions, Nora Smyth is the new LWVMpls point person for voter registration.

2016-17 Program Topics

The topics for *Civic Buzz* and unit discussion for the remainder of the year are:

- ✓ Racial Justice
- ✓ Water Quality
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Transportation of Hazardous Materials
- ✓ Domestic Violence
- ✓ Behavioral Health (mental and addiction)
- ✓ Board of Estimate and Taxation
- ✓ Redistricting

Our goal is to have the same topic at *Civic Buzz* (the first Tuesday of every month) and for unit discussion during that month.

Membership Renewal

A friendly reminder to those who haven't renewed – please do so as soon as possible. Call the office at 612.333.6319 or renew online at: lwvmpls.org (click "Join Us")

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From the President

Dot Lilja, Co-president

LWV is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.



The message from the 2016 LWVUS convention in Washington, D.C., was: "The League of Women Voters must change to remain viable and continue our mission of making democracy work for all." This was the message from outgoing president

Elisabeth MacNamara, new CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris and the many convention speakers. LWV is respected in the community, but we must be more visible, tell our story with data and welcome members diverse in age and citizenship. This is our challenge for 2016-2017.

Alice Moormann and I were delegates from LWVMpls to the national convention in June. Thank you, Alice, for your contributions to this letter! The 674 voting delegates voted to eliminate the citizenship requirement and reduce the age from 18 to 16 for membership. The proposal to *eliminate* an age requirement engendered much discussion about child memberships and was defeated.

We also set the national program for the next two years:

- ✓ Making Democracy Work: voting rights, voter protection and money in politics;
- ✓ Concurrence on Redistricting developed by the LWVUS Board;
- ✓ Concurrence on Behavioral Health developed by LWV Colorado; and
- ✓ Support of current LWVUS positions on Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.

There was significant discussion of the proposed concurrence on redistricting. LWV Florida campaigned actively against it. Our per member payment (PMP), the amount we send to National for each chapter member, will remain at \$32.

There were many interesting speakers at the convention, and their talks are online on the lwv.org

website, as well as youtube.com. I encourage everyone to listen to them, especially Wiggs Harris.

President MacNamara stressed that we describe LWV as an organization that "does not support any candidate or any political party." Using only the term "non-partisan" apparently is not well understood. There was discussion about how to promote a woman for president and remain non-partisan without showing support specifically for Hillary Clinton. We all need to think about how we address this.

Minnesota members took an active part in the convention. We were pleased that Jessica Rohloff, LWV Willmar, was elected to the LWVUS Board. Keesha Gaskins, former LWVMN Executive Director, spoke on "League Impact" and Judy Duffy, a former LWVUS board member, recognized President MacNamara for her service. The Bloomington LWV took the initiative in eliminating the citizenship requirement for membership, and LWVMN proposed eliminating the age requirement.

In talking with delegates, it was apparent that other LWV chapters are struggling to have any impact in communities that have mayors, legislators and governors from the "far right" of the political spectrum. At least we in Minnesota have hope and significant support when we act. One attendee commented that Minnesota appeared to be doing well with the administration of its elections.

In addition, a compliment was received from a District of Columbia delegate, who said, "You (LWVMpls) have a great website." Thanks, Ruby Hocker!

I had not attended a LWVUS convention since 1972. I was glad to participate this time. The new LWVUS president is Chris Carson from LWV Glendale/Burbank and is a former college lecturer in American history.

I hope some of you are looking forward to attending the 2018 convention in Chicago as a delegate or a visitor. LWVMpls likely will have four delegate slots in 2018; one of them could be yours.

CMAL to Focus on Emergency Preparedness

Emergency planning and management will be the focus for the three program meetings of the Council of Metropolitan Leagues (CMAL) in 2016-17. Speakers from across the Twin Cities will report on government planning for and responses to all kinds of emergencies from fires and floods to power outages, hazardous material spills, and terrorist threats. Each community responds differently. What can we learn from each other?

The first meeting, on Saturday, October 15, will look at planning for and managing acts of terrorism, civil unrest, and political unrest. It will be co-sponsored by the Minneapolis LWV, and held at the Washburn Library. Other meetings will be on January 21 and March 18, 2017. Watch for details.

~ Julia Wallace

Introducing Kathi Marks, LWVMpls Finance Coordinator

Kathi Marks is a recent transplant from southern California, where she and her husband owned a Play It Again Sports franchise for almost 23 years. During that time, she worked as operations manager of the stores, and had back-office financial and payroll responsibilities. She is new to the nonprofit world and is excited to be a part of the League of Women Voters Minneapolis, especially in this exciting and compelling election year.

Marks lives with her husband of 26 years in south Minneapolis, and has been enjoying the beautiful green surroundings of her new home. Within walking distance of Lake Harriet, she has discovered the parks, rose gardens, wildlife sanctuaries and beautiful lakes that make up the urban city experience here in Minneapolis. After 30 years in the desert, she can still be startled by water that falls from the sky!

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2017 LWVMpls Calendar

You can order via phone, by mail or online at lwvmpls.org.

Please call 612.333.6319 to order and/or tell us when you plan to pick up your calendar(s).

Prices are discounted if ordered by October 1; see the **online** order form.

Presidential Election Q & A

Q: Does the League of Women Voters have any comment on Secretary Hillary Clinton securing the Democratic Presidential nomination?

A: “The League, along with all of our fellow Americans, must celebrate this historic event of a woman receiving the Presidential nomination of a major political party. It has always been a goal of the League of Women Voters to enable women to have an equal role in our nation’s political processes. It may have taken nearly 100 years since the first step of women receiving the right to vote, but that can’t diminish the historic significance of this moment and this achievement.”

“Informed participation of all people in our democracy has always been the League’s highest priority. Such participation includes not only voting but also becoming candidates for public office. **The League never supports or opposes candidates, and we never support or oppose political parties.** Rather, our aim is focused on enabling and encouraging all citizens to fully participate so that they can weigh in on the issues that matter most to *them*.”

For additional information on this topic, go to: lwv.org

Thanks for a Successful Fundraiser

Thank you to all those who attended our spring fundraiser, *In a Modern Mood*, on May 19 at ALWAYS MOD in Golden Valley. LWVMpls extends a heartfelt **Thank You** to fundraiser donors and to all who were involved in planning and helped make the evening a fun and delightful experience for everyone . . . as well as a successful fundraiser for LWVMpls. We raised more than \$10,500! This wouldn't have been possible without the many generous donations from businesses and from LWVMpls members and friends, which included auction items, wine for the wine raffle, and the delicious food, wine and beer served at the event.

Special thanks to:

- ✓ **ALWAYS MOD**, our generous venue host, for allowing us to use their showroom and warehouse for our event.
- ✓ **Cliff Swenson**, guest speaker from the Minneapolis Park Board, who gave us a preview of the new design for the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden.

Planning the fundraiser was a coordinated effort by many dedicated LWV volunteers, who are listed below.

- ✓ **The Planning Committee** consisted of Chair Sally Pundt, Deborah Jindra, Karlynn Fronek, Joan Niemiec and Jennifer Johnson, with support of office staff, Carla Jacobson and Britt Heglund.
- ✓ **Auction Volunteers** were Pam Telleen, Barb Kimer, Ellen Hughes, Anna Johnson, Elaine Lindstrom, led by Karlynn Fronek and Joan Niemiec. Auctioneer was Julaine Heit.
- ✓ **Unit 48 members**, led by Jennifer Johnson and Peggy Pluimer, provided and served the delicious food and beverages.
- ✓ **Unit 53 members**, led by Sue Verrett, organized the wine raffle. The wine was donated by LWVMpls board members, Unit 53 and Unit 1.

~ Sally Pundt

Thank you to these businesses for donating auction items:

Always Mod	Bella Salon Spa	Bill Cameron Photography
Blue Plate Restaurant	Brave New Workshop Comedy Theater	Broders' Pasta Bar
Cafe Ena	Calhoun Vision Center	Chanhassen Dinner Theaters
Clear Holistic Therapies	Cuppa Java	Grandview Lodge
Hennepin Lake Liquors	Jungle Theater	Kowalski's Lyndale Market
Lululemon	Massage Envy	Minnesota Vikings
Murray's Steakhouse	Old Log Theater	Prima Italian Bistro
Ragamala Dance Company	Red Cow 50th St Restaurant	Rolayne's Hair Design
South Lyndale Liquors	St. Genevieve Restaurant	Stella's Fish Cafe
Sunnyside Gardens	Surly Brewing CO	Tangletown Gardens
The Tangiers	Theater in the Round	Wuollet Bakery
6Smith Restaurant		

Thank you to these members and friends for donating auction items:

Chris Brink	Marilyn Dean	Sally Farnan
Robert & Susan Greenberg	Susan Grey	Marion Hall
Julaine & Dave Heit	Deborah Jindra & Margit Berg	Peter Juhl
Polly Keppel	Barb Kimer	Peggy Lucas
Herman Milligan	Joan Niemiec	Peggy Pluimer
Michael Quick	Sheryl Sandberg	Pam Telleen

Marilyn Dean – 2016 Mlnarik Award Recipient



During these interesting political times, it is rare when many people can agree on any one thing. At the Annual Meeting, we had the unusual experience of receiving several Bess Mlnarik Award nominations all for the same person – Marilyn Dean. She earned praise for stepping up to the plate as president-elect in 2009 and attended uncomfortable staff meetings, supported the president during a rough year and took over the reins ready to move forward. After her presidency, she returned in various positions and volunteered in the office to keep us on course.

Rather than pull back after many busy years, she stayed active in leadership roles and is especially concerned with mentoring new members. She champions the continued publication of *The Voter* newsletter, shepherding it through the absence of a designated editor.

Marilyn brings skills to a variety of LWVMpls tasks from her time at the University of Minnesota Law School and the Uptown Art Fair planning committee. Her ready smile and can-do attitude helps recruit other volunteers and makes working with her a joy. She contributed time and ideas to Healthy Legacy events, several fundraisers and unit topics such as last fall's successful presentation of Money in Politics at The Tangiers. She is active in Bryn Mawr neighborhood events, a member of a thriving book group, or two, and now is a grandmother to several lucky children. She manages to do all well and doesn't seek out awards or recognition.

Our award winner also brought a second generation into our organization. Her daughter Ashley organized a surprise family contingent for the award ceremony to make the evening even more special.

Last year's worthy recipient of this award, Julaine Heit, was traveling during the Annual Meeting and was very disappointed that she could not pass the torch personally to this year's perfect embodiment of what the Mlnarik Award stands for. Deborah Jindra presented the award on Heit's behalf. Congratulations, Marilyn.

~ Deborah Jinda



Making Democracy Work for All

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Black Forest Inn at 26th and Nicollet

5:30 PM Networking & Socializing

6:15-7:30 PM Speaker & Lively Discussion

David Schultz, Hamline University political science professor, will join us to speak on ballot initiatives/amendments – pros and cons.

Civic Buzz events are held at the Black Forest Inn, 1 E 26th St. (at Nicollet), Minneapolis, in the banquet space behind the restaurant. The regular date will now be the FIRST Tuesday of the month. *Civic Buzz* provides a place for folks who are curious about LWV, as well as new and at-large members and friends, to participate in a fun and educational event.



From Standing in the Sun to an Iftar Meal: My Voter Registration Experience

As a Seward Co-op member, I appreciate the policy restricting solicitation on their property. Going through a barrage of people asking for money and signatures for numerous causes on the way to shopping can be irritating. However, because the League of Women Voters offers a non-partisan public service (voter registration and education), I contacted Sean Doyle, the Co-op manager, a few years ago. At the time, Minnesota faced contentious constitutional amendments. I put forth a case to allow LWVMpls to register voters. He agreed and we did. (Mainly I did.)

Recently, I asked for permission again and it was granted. I stood in the sun on June 21, from 3 to 4:30 PM, and asked people if they were registered to vote and whether or not they knew about the primary election on August 9. Out of over 100 people, fewer than 10 knew about the primary. Some wondered **how** that could be! Most people I spoke with did not know there are *three* categories on the Minnesota ballot in August: Minnesota House and the US House (by political party), and Judges (non-partisan). I repeated this over and over and was thanked many times.

The following day, I drove to the light rail and left our car for my husband. I walked home, greeting folks along the way. In front of the Capitol Café, at 24th and Franklin, one man asked how the election season is going. I reminded him that primary election day is August 9. We chatted and I realized he had seen me doing voter registration the day before. We talked in a non-partisan way about the election and moved on to Brexit - where I could actually offer an opinion based on living in the UK in the past. As I left, the café owner Scott (or the Somali equivalent) gave me a flyer for an Iftar meal on June 29.

June 28 – more voter registration. This time from 4 to 5:30 PM. Again, amazement about an upcoming primary. Many thanks for being there, many explanations that LWV is neutral on candidates, and talk about early voting and absentee voting. Again, I spoke to more than 100 people. In total, I registered five people and gave out seven registration forms for people to send in on their own.

June 29 – Yes indeed, I went to the Iftar meal at Bethany Lutheran Church on Franklin Avenue, a true community gathering. Scott and I greeted each other. I suggested he post a sign in his café reminding people to vote on August 9, and he liked the idea.

LWVMpls also has permission to do registration at the Friendship Co-op across from Sabathani Center and the St. Vincent de Paul shop just off Lake Street. Icing on the cake: one of the people I registered is homeless. Moral of the story: registering voters is very rewarding and can be an adventure. Any-one want to take a shift?

~ Patricia Mack

New LWVMpls Board Members

Five members joined the LWVMpls governing board for 2016-17.

Jean Egerman, a new at-large member, came back to Minnesota from Elmwood Park, Illinois, where she served as secretary and also treasurer for the library board. She was also a member of the Citizens' Advisory Board for the Chicago Metro Agency for Planning. Originally from Minnesota, she received her master's degree from the University of Minnesota in educational psychology and worked on research projects for the University. She will serve as secretary and will be one of the board representatives on the Nominating Committee.



Sandy Hull is our new communications director. She will be responsible for public relations, social media, marketing, and building our brand. A member of Unit 53, she has served on the Membership Committee and helped with a number of LWV events. In 2009 she founded a digital marketing business in Minneapolis. Sandy's interests include social justice, parks and recreation, and the impact of money in politics. Besides her communications portfolio, she has agreed to help on the Budget Committee this spring.

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Nora Smyth is a new member of board, interested in domestic violence and intervention as well as environmental justice issues. She is currently working toward a master's degree in clinical social work and has agreed this year to coordinate voter registration. Her interest in domestic violence and her voter

service work has her involved in both aspects of LWV's mission: voting rights and outreach. She has agreed to serve on the Personnel Committee this year.

Pam Telleen: After working with LWVMpls for years and serving as president in 2013–15, Pam continues her involvement by chairing the Membership Committee. A member of Unit 11, she worked on the school board meet-and-greet last year. She has great plans for increasing our membership this coming year, encouraging friends and neighbors to join,

and reaching out to areas of the city with few LWV members.

Nancy Witta, a fifty-year member, still dedicated to LWV activity, has agreed to be treasurer. A member of Unit 48, Nancy has served on many committees, including Finance, and was also LWVMpls president. Recently she co-chaired the Program Committee and served on the 2015-16 Budget Committee. She has also worked as Action Coordinator and board member of LWVMN. This year she will automatically be part of the Budget and Personnel Committees.

These five join Dot Lilja and Marion Hall, co-presidents; Willow Kreibich and Sally Pundt, voter services; Marilyn Dean, voter assignment editor; Alice Moormann, sustainability, bylaws and financial review; and Karlynn Fronek, computer issues. We are still recruiting for a development director, Nominating Committee chair, budget chair, program co-chairs, and president-elect.



Looking for Lively Conversation?
LWVMpls units meet in member homes or public places for lively discussions of current LWV issues. Members and guests are welcome at any unit. Call the listed contacts or the LWVMpls office for more details.

Unit 1

South Minneapolis
 Second Monday, 7:15 PM
 Contact Polly Keppel, 612.823.3389

Unit 48

South/North/Uptown/Downtown Minneapolis
 Third Monday, 7 PM
 Contact Jennifer Johnson, 612.377.6084

Unit 11

Southwest Minneapolis
 Second Tuesday, 7:15 PM
 Contact Jane Papageorgiou, 612.824.2180
 or Janet Gendler, 612.920.3567

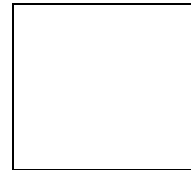
Unit 53 (Note new contacts)

West of Downtown
 Third Tuesday
 Social 7:30 PM, Meeting 8 PM
 Contact Susan Verrett, 612.377.7447 or
 Evelyn Anderson, 612.377.2162

Unit 25/29

Southeast/Northeast Minneapolis
 Fourth Tuesday, 7 PM
 Contact Susan Anderson, 612.331.1117 or
 Kate Donahue, 612.378.9538

League of Women Voters Minneapolis
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Minneapolis, MN 55407
Phone: 612.333.6319
Email: vote@lwvmpls.org
Website: www.lwvmpls.org



MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Marion Hall, Dot Lilja, Co-presidents

We're on the Web!
www.lwvmpls.org



LWVMpls Board of Directors

- ◆ Marion Hall, *Co-president*
- ◆ Dot Lilja, *Co-president*
- ◆ Jean Egerman, *Secretary*
- ◆ Nancy Witta, *Treasurer*
- ◆ Karlynn Fronek, *Past Co-president (Computer Issues)*
- ◆ Sandy Hull, *Communications*
- ◆ Pam Telleen, *Membership*
- ◆ Marilyn Dean, *Newsletter Assignment Editor*
- ◆ Nora Smyth, *Personnel*
- ◆ Alice Moormann, *Sustainability/Bylaws/Financial Review*
- ◆ Willow Kreibich, *Voter Services*
- ◆ Sally Pundt, *Voter Services*

Important Dates

Thursday, September 1

Deadline for October
Voter Submissions

Saturday, October 1

Deadline for calendar orders
at discounted price

Tuesday, September 6

5:30 PM Networking
6:15 PM Speaker/Discussion
Civic Buzz
Black Forest Inn
26th & Nicollet Ave. S.

Wednesday, September 21

6 PM
LWVMpls Board Meeting
2801 21st Ave. S, #250



LWVMpls Hours:
Monday–Thursday,
10 AM to 2 PM