



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

# Voter

## Inside

President’s Message .....pg 2

CMAL..... pg 3

LWV US.....pg 4

LWV Minnesota.....pg 4

Take Action ..... pg 5

The Spotlight.....pg 7

Lively Issues Report.....pg 8

Health Care Reform.....pg 9



## January Calendar

- January 4, 7:00 PM, LWVSLP January Board Meeting at Barb Person’s  
\*\*\*
- January 12, 12:30 PM, LWVSLP Unit 2 Meeting Parkshore Senior Campus Multipurpose Room  
Topic: Elections and More  
Speaker: Nancy Stroth, St. Louis Park City Clerk  
\*\*\*
- January 15, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, CMAL Augsburg Park Library  
7100 Nicollet Avenue  
Richfield, MN 55423  
\*\*\*
- January 22, 10:30 AM – 1 pm Legislative Interviews and Chili Luncheon at Union Congregational Church

### Upcoming Events

- February 1 7:00 pm LWVSLP Board Meeting at Nancy Klaber’s  
\*\*\*
- February 9 12:30 pm LWVSLP Unit 2 meeting Parkshore Card Room  
Topic: Ranked Choice Voting  
\*\*\*
- February 17 7:00 pm LWVSLP Unit 3 Unit 3 Meeting at Eilseen Knisely’s  
Topic: Ranked Choice Voting



### Legislative Interviews January 22 Union Congregational Church

**Please join us for the annual interview with our legislators** on Saturday January 22 from 10:30 to 1:00 at the United Congregational Church library, 3700 Alabama Avenue South.

We’ll review issues and ideas for the upcoming 2011 legislative session and have some informal discussions over a chili lunch. For more information contact Aggie Leitheiser, 952-938-6255 or [aggieleit@comcast.net](mailto:aggieleit@comcast.net)

### Census results are in....

**Minnesota kept all 8 of its congressional districts in the 2010 Apportionment. We now turn our attention to redistricting.**

Thank you again, to everyone who participated with the census.

## President's Message

Very best wishes for a happy and successful 2011! The new year offers the opportunity to do a little reflection on the past year's successes and to get ready for the opportunities ahead. We had a very busy fall election session with four candidate forums, voter service activities and discussion of the important issues for our community and country.

The new calendar year starts off with the legislative interview meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:30 to 1:00. We hope you will be joining us for a discussion and chili lunch at United Congregational Church library, 3700 Alabama Avenue South. This would be a good meeting for prospective members to attend!

We've all survived the snowiest Twin Cities December on record and are all indebted to our city's commitment to public service in making sure the streets are plowed well. While we are very appreciative, I for one, hope we don't need too much more from their service. Spring is just around the corner – right?

Our December Unit meetings focused on a review of LWV positions for the State and CMAL level. Most agreed that our current positions were reflective of our previous discussions. A few new areas were proposed. The Board will review them at our next meeting to determine what gets forwarded to LWVMN.

February meetings will highlight Ranked Choice Voting which is getting much more attention after our state's two consecutive recounts. We hope you will come prepared to learn and update your opinions about this new strategy.

May the New Year bring you many joys and just enough challenges to keep it interesting.

*—Aggie Leitheiser, LWVSLP President, 952-938-6255*

### December Board Meeting Highlights

The new banner for the LWV of SLP is now ready and we'll use at our next events. Thank you to Barb Person who found a good source and worked with the printer to match our wishes.

In addition to getting ready for the January meeting we reviewed upcoming programs:

February – Ranked Choice Voting

March – Unit discussions on light and freight rail traffic issues for SLP

April – Annual meeting program on food borne disease outbreaks in Bangladesh and MN

May – City tour with highlights of recent improvements

The LWV Minnesota convention will be May 21 and 22 in Rochester. To help with coordinating rides, please let Aggie Leitheiser ([aggieleit@comcast.net](mailto:aggieleit@comcast.net)) know if you plan to attend.

The board discussed the topic of membership dues for Unit 2 and determined that we needed to request more input from unit 2 members at the Parkshore Campus. This will be considered for potential future board action.



## Worth Noting

### Just Around the Corner

#### February Unit Meeting Topic.....

- **How does ranked choice voting really work?**
- **What is the history of ranked choice voting?**
- **What are the chances of getting SLP Charter Commission to approve ranked choice voting?**

#### Did You Know?

Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) is now called RCV for Ranked Choice Voting.

#### We've Missed You....

Nancy Klaber is taking a more active role in LWVSLP. She is back on the board as the secretary. Welcome back, Nancy.

## Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL)

Submitted By Dorothy Karlson

### CMAL QUARTERLY MEETING Saturday January 15, 2011

10:00 coffee and treats  
10:30 - 11:45 Program and questions  
11:45 - 11:55 Announcements

Location:  
Augsburg Park Library  
7100 Nicollet Avenue  
Richfield, MN 55423

**Call Dorothy Karlson, 952-935-4051, to car pool.**

Topic and Speaker:  
"Heading Home Hennepin" by Cathy ten Broeke.  
Cathy ten Broeke is Project Coordinator for the Office to End Homelessness in Minneapolis and Hennepin County.

The Heading Home Hennepin Plan was developed by business and civic leaders, advocates, community members and individuals who have experienced homelessness with the goal of

ending homelessness in Minneapolis and Hennepin County by 2016. This program is expected to change the paradigm from managing to ending homelessness.

The Plan is in the 4th year of the Heading Home Hennepin Initiative and has helped many people with significant cost savings. They have seen more people come into the program which has been a challenge. They will be publishing an interim public report in November 2010 which will show their progress on the 10 Year plan to End Homelessness.

Come and hear of a government program that is showing success four years into the ten year span.

Questions:  
Geneva MacMillan  
CMAL Board  
952 934 3000  
[Meandmao2@aol.com](mailto:Meandmao2@aol.com)

## League Of Women Voters – United States

Submitted By Aggie Leitheiser

### LWVUS highlights

\* Calls from LWV to support the START treaty to reduce the number of nuclear weapons contributed to the passage of the treaty in late December. Another priority, the DREAM Act which would provide a path to citizenship for young immigrants did not pass .

\* In accordance with direction from Convention 2010, the LWVUS will undertake a study of "Privatization: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector." This study will focus on the impact of privatizing government services on local communities. Committee members will be responsible for developing study materials and consensus questions and reviewing/tabulating responses submitted by participating Leagues.

\* In comments submitted to the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) the League strongly supported online voter registration, proposing that the EAC provide the registration application form in electronic format. The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) has proposed some minor changes to the mail-in voter registration application form

## League Of Women Voters – Minnesota

Submitted By Aggie Leitheiser

### LWVMN highlights

- Executive Director Keesha Gaskins will leave in January for a new position with the Brennan Center for Justice in New York City. Laura Fredrick Wang, current public policy coordinator for LWV MN will serve as interim director during the search for a permanent executive director.
- LWV MN joined Common Cause Minnesota, Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and Take Action Minnesota to found the Minnesota Democracy Network, whose purpose is to achieve fair redistricting policies.



*Convention information coming soon...*

## Take Action Top Priorities

Subscribe to the e-newsletter or the e-Activist List, <https://member.lwv.org/Subscribe.asp>

### Global Climate Change

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation. Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts.

LWV believes that now is the time to act on global climate change. We can reduce global warming pollution by using existing technologies to make power plants and factories more efficient, make cars go farther on a gallon of gasoline, and shift to cleaner technologies.

Cities, states and individuals are already adopting many of these solutions, which also reduce our dependence on oil, reduce air pollution, and protect pristine places from oil drilling and mining. State and local initiatives are proving that answers exist.

To reinforce and expand on those efforts, LWV urges federal action that reduces global warming pollutants on a national and global scale.

### Health Care Reform

LWV believes that quality, affordable health care should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care. Furthermore, LWV believes that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care.

Through decades of work in their communities, LWV members have learned that Americans believe that fairness and responsibility, as well as access, are important values for any health care system. We believe that healthcare reform can only succeed if it takes all these values into account.

### Money in Elections

Fair and clean elections, determined by the votes of American citizens, should be at the center of our democracy. In the wake of *Citizens United vs. FEC (2010)*, which threw out vital protections against corporate and union spending in elections, the League's Money and Elections work takes even greater precedence. While special interest money was always a concern in elections, corporations—including foreign corporations—may now intervene directly in elections, taking power away from voters. To mitigate the corruption that will inevitably increase following the Court's tragic mistake, LWV strongly supports legislation that will enhance disclosure, fix the public financing system for presidential candidates and establish congressional public financing.

Take Action, continued...

**OTHER ISSUES THE LOBBYISTS ARE WATCHING**

[http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Additional\\_Issues](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Additional_Issues)

**Ethics and Lobbying Reform**

The last Congress passed new ethics and lobbying laws. Now is the time to ensure that the ethics process works to fight corruption and to limit the undue influence of special interest lobbyists.

**Election Administration**

When the 2000 election exposed the many problems facing the election system, the League leaped into action. Bringing our coalition allies together, LWV worked to ensure that key reforms were part of the congressional debate. With LWV's special expertise, we argued for improved voting systems and machines, provisional balloting and other safeguards, and improvements in voter registration systems, poll worker training and administration.

**DC Voting Rights**

Citizens of the District of Columbia have no representation in the U.S. Senate and only a nonvoting delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives. A basic principle of democracy is at stake. U.S. citizens living in the capital of the free world deserve to have full voting representation in the bodies that make their laws, tax them and call them to war.

**Arms Control**

Arms control measures are essential to increasing global stability and peace in an interdependent world, and LWV has been involved in efforts to reduce the risk of war since 1982, continuing to play a key role in legislative efforts to limit funding for unworkable and destabilizing missile defense systems and to uphold the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. LWV has supported a bilateral, mutually verifiable freeze on the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons to be followed by reductions; a comprehensive test ban treaty; and the Chemical Weapons Convention. In 2000, LWV worked in support of the ABM Treaty and in opposition to deployment of a planned national missile defense system. The need for this work continues to this day.



**Meet our newest LWVSLP member, Allyson Sheldrew**

Allyson works with Aggie at the Minnesota Department of Health in the Emerging Infections Unit - Influenza Surveillance. LWV SLP sponsored her participation in the LOTT conference last spring.

1. How you became interested in LWV, including your experience with LOTT.

I first became interested in LWV after I attended the LOTT conference. LOTT helped me to see what LWV was really about, all while meeting wonderful women from around the state who are so passionate and successful. Based on my experience there, I knew that LWV would be a good fit for me.

2. What are you studying in school?

I am currently a graduate student at the University of Minnesota in the School of Public Health. I am focusing my studies on Environmental Health and Infectious Diseases.

3. Tell us a little about your current job and your plans for your career.

Currently, I work at the Minnesota Department of Health in the influenza unit. We monitor changes in the flu around the state, as well as track how many people are becoming sick with the flu. Eventually, I would like to work as an emergency planner for either a city, county or state government.

4. Anything else you'd like to share about your interest in public policy, voting or yourself!

I'm excited to get more involved in the LWV, as well as to get to learn about public policy issues that are impacting Minnesotans.

**LWV SLP November Unit Meetings**  
**Lively Issues Report**  
 Submitted by Aggie Leitheiser

The December Unit meetings focused on a review of current positions of the LWV Minnesota and the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues. Most of the positions were established several years ago following a study or position paper with a consensus process. Positions are by their nature fairly broad statements that define our collective belief about an issue or public policy. Because they are broad, they don't often change much year to year. That was true of this year's review of positions. Suggested topics suggested by state leaders of mortgage practices, education collective bargaining and tenure and campaign finance were discussed with additional topics suggested locally of voting and election law (especially the issue of vouching for non-registered voters), a study of the Department of Natural Resources similar to that of the Pollution Control Agency, and a review of the use and impact of the Environment/Arts Legacy fund. The Board will be reviewing the input from the Units and making recommendations to LWV Minnesota before the March 1 deadline. Recommendations from local Leagues are reviewed and acted on at the state Convention in May.

**2011 - 2013 LWV Minnesota Program Planning Timeline**

October 29: Local LWV Presidents sent preliminary program from LWV Minnesota Program Committee.

Week of Dec. 1, 2010: Proposed program ideas and planning form sent to local LWVs and made available at [www.lwvmn.org](http://www.lwvmn.org)

December 2010 & January 2011: Local LWVs schedule *Lively Issues Meetings*

**MARCH 7, 2011: Deadline to return Program Planning Forms to LWV Minnesota Program Chair**

March 12: LWV Minnesota Board of Directors recommends program for study or briefing papers

May 21 - 22, 2011: **LWV Minnesota Statewide Convention** - full convention selects program for upcoming biennium.

**Last Call !!**  
**2011 Membership Dues**

You should have received your invoice for your LWV SLP 2011 membership dues. Remember, the annual dues are on a calendar year now, from January 1 through December 31, 2011.

Single: \$45  
 Household (two or more at the same address): \$70  
 Support/member-at-large: \$50  
 Voter Newsletter only: \$10

Questions? Contact Ellen Hacker, membership chair at 952-920-9549 or [ehacker@comcast.net](mailto:ehacker@comcast.net).



## LWV MN Update Health Care Reform

### Health care reform could take nine months to implement

*published 12/14/2010*

If, after being sworn in as governor on Jan. 3, Mark Dayton immediately signs an executive order opting the state into the new federal health care law, and its caveat of millions of dollars to support health care coverage for the state's needy, it could still be nine months before any programming is available.

The paperwork is ready to be submitted, but with system conversions to complete, existing health care programs to merge and delivery systems to be developed, the state's Medicaid director, Brian Osberg, told the House Health Care and Human Services Finance Division that Oct. 1, 2011, is a likely start date. No action was taken.

End-of session negotiations over the state's General Assistance Medical Care program garnered a deal that allows the new governor to decide whether to opt into the federal program — something [Gov. Tim Pawlenty](#) has balked at.

[Rep. Thomas Huntley](#) (DFL-Duluth), the division chairman, said the Department of Human Services has known the opt-in was a possibility and asked Osberg why they wouldn't be ready for immediate implementation as soon as the governor signs the order.

"Providers are losing money," Huntley said. "Basically you've blown a year. It better not take nine months."

Osberg countered that the cost of developing programming with only a possibility of implementation was not a good use of resources. "We are not in the position of spending resources without the executive order," he said.

The committee also heard a review of the department's [November 2010 Forecast](#) of expenditures.

General Fund costs for medical and economic support programs (not including Medicaid expansion) for the 2010-2011 biennium are projected to total \$7.15 billion, down \$168 million from end of session 2010 estimates. Research Director George Hoffman said lower than expected service costs across several Medical Assistance services account for most of the reduction.

- Lee Ann Schutz

**LWV SLP OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2010-2011**

OFFICERS:

President: Aggie Leitheiser  
Vice President: Debbie Blake  
Secretary/Voter Editor: Deb Brinkman  
Treasurer/W.Metro: Barb Person

DIRECTORS:

Observer Coordinator: Judith Cook  
Voter Service: Vacant  
Membership: Ellen Hacker  
At Large: Elaine White  
CMAL: Dorothy Karlson



**YES! I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS PARK**

Name (Family Member #1): \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Family Member #2): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Dues (dues and subscriptions are not tax deductible):**

- Voter Subscription Only \$10.00
- Single Active Attending Member \$45.00
- Supporting/Member-at-Large \$50.00
- Family Membership (2 or more in single household) \$70.00

**Make checks payable to LWVSLP and send check & this form to:**

Ellen Hacker, Membership Chair  
3993 Brunswick Ave. South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416  
(952-920-9549) [ehacker@comcast.net](mailto:ehacker@comcast.net)



4327 Alabama Avenue, South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Aggie Leitheiser, President  
(952) 938-6255,  
[aggieleit@comcast.net](mailto:aggieleit@comcast.net)

Ellen Hacker, Membership  
(952) 920-9549  
[ehacker@comcast.net](mailto:ehacker@comcast.net)

Deb Brinkman, Editor  
(612) 803-6142  
[deb.brinkman@gmail.com](mailto:deb.brinkman@gmail.com)

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**LWV Mission Statement**

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

[www.lwvmn.org/localLeagues/SLP](http://www.lwvmn.org/localLeagues/SLP)