



Voter

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March Calendar

Upcoming Events

March 6, 2014 7 pm

* LWV SLP Board Meeting Dorothy’s home

March 15, 2014 9:30

* **CMAL**

Topic: “Taxes 101: Making Policy Decisions in the Context of the Minnesota Tax System”

Location: Minnesota School of Business, 1401 West 76th Street, Richfield

March 22, 2014 – 9:30 am

* **West Metro**

Topic: LWVUS Study on Agriculture

Location: TBD

April Upcoming Events

April 3, 2014 7 pm

* LWV SLP Board Meeting Eilseen’s home

April 10, 2014 11 to 1:30 and 4:30 to 6:30

* Empty Bowls STEP Fundraiser

Location: Westwood Lutheran Church

April 12, 2014 – 9:30 am

* Annual Meeting

Topic: “Discover St. Louis Park” President and CEO John Basill

McCoy’s Public House Restaurant – Excelsior and Grand

April 29, 2014

* Hennepin County 3rd District

Commissioner Primary Election



Hold the Date of April 12

It’s our Diamond Anniversary Celebration!

The 60th Annual Meeting of the LWV St. Louis Park will be Saturday April 12, 2014. The gathering will start at 9:30.

Following a business meeting, we’ll hear about the “Discover St. Louis Park” program from President and CEO John Basill followed by lunch.

The meeting will be at McCoy’s Public House Restaurant at 3801 Grand Way in SLP. Watch for your invitation.

Information about the Budget, Bylaws, and Nominations will come in a separate mailing in mid-March.

We hope to see all LWVSLP members at the meeting!

President's Message March 2014

Assuming March is coming in like a lion, I can hardly wait for it to go out like a lamb. I am sure everyone is looking forward to the change, even the snow bunnies. March 8th is International Women's day. The holiday celebrates women workers and advancing women's rights in the workforce, politics and society. The celebration [started in the late 1800's](#) and grew from women's socialist movements and early women's trade union groups. The theme this year is Inspiring Change. I'm grateful for all the opportunities the League gives us to initiate change.

Aggie and I attended the Town Hall Meeting last evening at St. Louis Park City Hall. Top priority is what to do with the budget surplus. There was a very engaging audience and topics discussed included minimum wage, allowing Sunday alcohol sales, the light rail, early voting, medical marijuana, campaign finance, and online voter registration. The meeting will be published on Park TV.

We have started planning the Annual Meeting. We have reserved the Fireplace Room at McCoys for our breakfast meeting and lunch. Thank you to everyone who is working on the committees.

We have a couple of great March meetings, the CMAL "Taxes 101" on March 15 and the West Metro LWV "Study on Agriculture" on March 22. I hope you will be able to join us.

Cheers To Change,

Deb Brinkman, President
LWV SLP

Highlights from the February 2014 LWV SLP Board Meeting:

- Confirmed our fund raising efforts will cover a Scholarship for a St. Louis Park Senior.
- Discussed the committees we need to publish the information before the annual meeting.
- Decided to cancel our Legislative Interview Chili lunch and attend the Town Hall meeting instead.
- Discussed Annual Meeting details and suggested we go to McCoys Public House. We also discussed inviting old League members.
- Voted to start the process to become a C3. We will vote on this at the annual meeting.
- Unit 3 will use the West Metro Study on Agriculture for the Unit meeting.



Worth Noting

Hennepin County Commissioner

Special Election

Primary April 29 General Election May 13

Candidates:

Marion Greene www.mariongreene.org

Katie Hatt www.katiehatt.org

Ken Kelash www.kenkelash.com

Anne Mavity www.AnneMavity.org

Ben Schweigert www.benforhennepin.org

Important Links

<http://www.lwvmn.org/page.aspx>

League of Women Voters Minnesota

<http://www.lwv.org/>

League of Women Voters United States

<http://www.lwvslp.org>

League of Women Voters St. Louis Park

St. Louis Park Empty Bowls

Thursday April 10th

This annual fundraiser for the St. Louis Park Emergency Program will be held this year at a new location - the Westwood Lutheran Church 9001 Cedar Lake Rd S

Hours are 11 - 1:30 p.m. for lunch and 4:30 - 6:30 for dinner.

Join your neighbors for a bowl or two of great soup, some local entertainment, and a take-home hand-crafted bowl. Donations welcome.

Julie Jergens (925-4899 ext. 14) is the person to talk to about volunteering.



Children First Asset #14

Adult Role Models

Did you know 36% of St. Louis Park young people have parents and other adults who model positive responsible behavior?

Adults should show the qualities they hope the youth will mature into and show later generations.

Young people should have five adults, besides their parents, they can turn to for help and advice. Identify the young people around you that you can build relationships with.

Action Alerts

LWV Minnesota periodically sends Action Alerts on matters pending before the legislature or governor. If you would like to receive them, please email Sherri Knuth, Policy and Outreach Manager, at sknuth@lwvmn.org T

March Unit Meetings

March Unit Activities

In March, members will be attending regional meetings on LWV issues.

March 15, 2014 10:00 am

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) will meet in Richfield to hear a presentation titled: “Taxes 101: Making Policy Decisions in the Context of the Minnesota Tax System”

This meeting will feature a moderated panel of local elected and appointed officials who make their decisions in the context of the Minnesota tax system that has been enacted by the Legislature. These officials will discuss how the current system affects local policy-making and what changes they’d recommend, if any, to the current system.

The meeting is at the Minnesota School of Business -just north of 35W and 494 (1401 West 76th Street, Richfield.

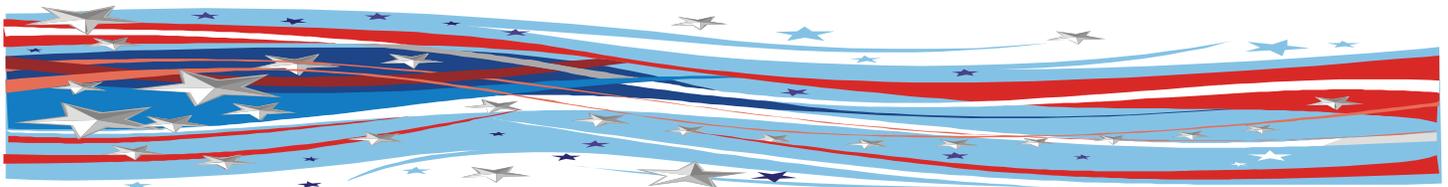
March 22, 2014 9:30 am

The West Metro Leagues will review the LWVUS Study on Agriculture to prepare us for the consensus discussion on this policy statement. Location TBD.

For information on the Study on Agriculture go to:

<http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/agriculture-update>

For more information or a ride to either of these meetings, call Aggie Leitheiser 952-938-6255.





TAKE ACTION

The IRS has proposed very significant changes in the regulations that govern what kind of political activity and how much of that activity a Section 501(c)(4) organization can carry out. This step is our best chance to rein in the secret "dark money" that has been polluting our elections since the Supreme Court's terrible decision in *Citizens United*. At the same time, the current proposal would undermine the League's ability to conduct truly nonpartisan voter service activities across the country.

The national League has submitted comments to the IRS on the proposal, but we need your help!

[Please contact the IRS and urge them to keep pushing to stop the dark money unleashed by *Citizens United* and to make sure that Leagues can continue our truly nonpartisan voter service work.](#)

Reforming IRS regulations is our single best opportunity to respond to *Citizens United*, which allowed political operatives like Karl Rove on the right and Bill Burton on the left to raise and spend unlimited amounts of secret money in candidate elections. By stopping 501(c)(4) organizations from spending on "candidate-related political activity," the IRS can stop the abuse in its tracks.

For 94 years the League has played a unique role in our elections by providing truly nonpartisan voter services and information to voters across the country. Unfortunately, the IRS proposal as it stands would jeopardize our work because it does not provide any exception for truly nonpartisan voter service activities like those carried out by the League. This is a terrible mistake, both for voters and for our democracy.

[Protect the League's voter service work and stop dark money from polluting our elections: Submit your comments to the IRS today.](#)

Submitting your comment to the IRS is easy. Here are step-by-step instructions and a sample message:

1. [Click this link to be taken to the page for the IRS Regulation.](#)
2. Copy and paste the following message to the IRS into the comment box.

The IRS must stop the "dark money" polluting our elections. Don't back off. We have seen too much abuse by fly-by-night 501(c)(4) organizations and it is harming our democracy. We need real transparency and tough rules to stop "candidate-related political activity" by these organizations.

At the same time, the current IRS proposal must be changed to make sure that truly nonpartisan voter service activities by the League of Women Voters can continue. The existing standards currently applied to 501(c)(3) organizations governing nonpartisan election activities should also be applied to (c)(4) organizations.

3. Enter your contact information if you desire.
4. Click Continue.
5. Select the box next to I read and understand the statement above.
6. Click Submit Comment.

If you have a chance, please also [forward this message to your friends and neighbors!](#) Ask them to support the League by sending a comment to the IRS!



Educate. Advocate. Reform.™

Action Committee Report February 2014

- On Jan. 28, 2014 Susan Tucker and Sherri Knuth testified at the House Elections Committee hearing in support of a bill implementing on-line voter registration.
- Plans are being made to greet legislators on the first day of the session, Feb. 25th which will begin at 12 noon. All league members are encouraged to participate. Meet in front of the Governor's office at the Capitol at 11:15 am. We will distribute a flyer listing our legislative priorities for this session. **Please print the attached [guiding principles](#) flyer in your local Voter. Thank you!**
- LWV Minnesota participated in a Minnesota/Wisconsin National Conference on Voting Rights Hearing that at the U. of M. Law School on Feb. 25th from 4 – 8 p.m.
- **Please print in your local Voter:** Are there members in your local League who are interested in Health Care, Transportation, Domestic Violence or the Environment? The Action Committee is looking for volunteer lobbyists who would be willing to follow these issues and others in the Legislature. Current lobbyists welcome someone who will partner with them to cover an issue.
- The Action Committee meets biweekly at the Women's Building from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays when the legislature is in session. All League members are welcome to attend any of our meetings. Please contact Kathy Tomsich, ktomsich@comcast.net, or Jeanne LeFevre, jjlefever@comcast.net, if you are interested in joining us or have questions.

Join LWV Minnesota's Action Alert Network

Receive Legislative Alerts so you can take action on key bills in committees or on the floor

Sign up by emailing Sherri Knuth at sknuth@lwvmn.org

Guiding Principles for the 2014 Legislative Session

The founding documents of our nation and the Minnesota Constitution establish enduring principles; chief among them are a representative government and the right to vote. As a leading democracy, our nation should keep our election system fair and equally accessible to all citizens.

League of Women Voters Minnesota members volunteer countless hours to assist voters across our state. We provide timely information to Minnesota voters on how to register and where to vote. Local LWVs hold candidate forums in which candidates directly speak to the voters.

At the legislative level, LWV Minnesota's priorities for the 2014 session are protecting and improving voting rights and Minnesota's election system.

- To **modernize access to the ballot box**, we support:
 - **Online voter registration**: Put online voter registration into law
 - **Restoration of voting rights**: Allow felons living in the community on probation or parole to vote
 - **Protect Election Day registration**
- To **improve election integrity**, we support:
 - **Maintain transparency in campaign funding**: The Campaign Finance and Disclosure Board should be adequately funded.
 - **Require disclosure of "electioneering communications"**

Judicial Independence: Reform judicial selection process to protect judges from special interests.

Observer Reports

City Council February 3, 2014 Aggie Leitheiser, Observer

Meeting was called to order at 7:30. All members present.

- * Proclamation honoring Susan Schneck, cofounder in 1995 of the Friends of the Arts. Susan reviewed a few accomplishments she was most proud of including building projects, bridges and other public spaces that now consider art impacts.
- * Jean Olson provided an update on “Health in the Park”. They talked with several hundred people in the City about their issues and desires. First phase is to listen to the community with a meeting on Feb 20 and March 2. Phase 2 will be this summer with about a 30 person steering group. TPT is doing a 30-minute documentary on the community engagement process. This is similar in approach to the community engagement process used by Children First.
- * Consent items were approved.
- * Interviews are continuing for boards and commissioners
- * Public hearing for Weinberg brothers doing business as Prime Grille On-Sale Wine and 3.2% malt liquor license. The business is located at 4224 Minnetonka Boulevard and operates as a kosher deli seating about 50 people with an opening in March. The application was approved.
- * Public Hearing for on-sale intoxicating and Sunday Sale Liquor License for Yard House at 1665 Park Place Boulevard. The business will seat about 340 inside with another 70 outside. Application approved.
- * Law Enforcement labor agreement reviewed and a 2-year contract with a 2% increase in 2014 and 2.5% in 2015 was approved. In addition, crisis negotiators will have the same status as emergency response officers.
- * Announcements included information about the Home Remodeling Fair, and a discussion of upcoming meetings about the South West Light Rail Transit proposals.
- * Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Plan to Attend



LWV Minnesota Annual Council
 Minnesota Arboretum 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska MN 55318
 May 3, 2014
 8:30 to 3:30
 For more information, contact Barb Person at 2persons@comcast.net



What is Health in the Park?

Health in the Park is a three year initiative, funded by The Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, which will explore and define opportunities to make St. Louis Park a healthier community. St. Louis Park believes that the key to creating strong community is by connecting and engaging its citizens. This initiative for well-being is an initiative which will connect those who live or work in St. Louis Park and engage them in conversations to define health and wellness for our community and existing barriers that prevent community members from achieving wellbeing. These conversations will define and direct strategies to reduce these barriers and increase access to routine physical activity and healthy living choices in St. Louis Park.

How is this going to happen?

Phase one of this process (September 2013 – June 2014) is to listen to and engage all parts of the community. This includes gaining insight and direction from a steering group of citizens that reflect the diversity of our community and conducting a number of small focus groups of people who represent the different segments of St. Louis Park. This listening/engaging process will culminate in 2 large-scale, professionally facilitated city-wide conversations on the evening of February 20, 2014, and the afternoon of Sunday, March 2, 2014. These city-wide conversations will reflect the diverse segments of the community and will direct the 2nd phase of Health in the Park – defining priorities and developing strategies to make healthy living more accessible to the citizens of St. Louis Park.

Phase 2 (July 2014 – June 2016) of Health in the Park will be kicked off in early summer with a community wide celebration highlighting strategies and priorities for creating a healthier community. What will those ideas look like? The City of St. Louis Park believes that government should not try to define what a healthier community means, but instead the city should provide opportunities to hear from the citizens, and work in partnership to make healthier living attainable for each of our community segments. You, the citizens of St. Louis Park, will decide how to create and develop a community of real well-being: healthy, physically, mentally and spiritually. Don't let the decisions be made without including your important perspective!

How can I be part of Health in the Park?

We need you to tell us what a healthier community looks like for YOU.

- Follow Health in the Park on Twitter, www.twitter.com/hipsplp and Facebook, www.facebook.com/healthinthepark.
- If you have questions or ideas to share, contact us at healthinthepark@stlouispark.org or (952) 928-2858.
- If you would like to find out about volunteer opportunities for Health in the Park, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Ingebrigtsen, at (952) 928-2847 or email lingebrigtsen@stlouispark.org.

From the Hennepin County Recycling Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board as part of its Rethink Recycling Outreach Efforts

10 ways to spot a recycler:

- #10 When a recycler says they're a diver, they don't mean swimming. They mean dumpster.
- #9 At parties, recyclers round up the empty cans and bottles.
- #8 No recycling at the party? Recyclers take items home with them to their bins.
- #7 Their garbage can sits at the curb practically empty while their recycling bins are overflowing.
- #6 Recyclers believe in full circle. They buy carpet, furniture and clothing made from recycled plastic.
- #5 At the office water cooler, recyclers swap tales of the oddest things they've recycled.
- #4 Recyclers don't do demolition. They de-construct and donate the materials they don't need.
- #3 Before they buy a product, they think about if they can recycle the packaging.
- #2 Recyclers have boundless creativity. They can reuse egg cartons faster than chickens can fill them.
- #1 Recyclers act as if every purchase or waste sorting choice they make matters to the planet. And, they're right!

Senate District 46 Legislator Town Hall
February 26, 2014

Senator Ron Latz, Representative Ryan Winkler and Representative Steve Simon held a town hall event with a question and answer format at the St. Louis Park City Hall. The meeting will be available on Park TV and on the Park TV website.

The discussion included but wasn't limited to: Sunday liquor sales, medical marijuana, minimum wage, copper mining, light rail transit, campaign finance reform, and early voting.



President Deb Brinkman and Senator Ron Latz at the District 46 Town Hall 2-26-14

Champions Breakfast: March 21



Plan to attend Children First's third annual Champions Breakfast on Friday, March 21, 7:00- 8:15 a.m. at the Doubletree Park Place Hotel. The breakfast is the first opportunity to hear about the results of St. Louis Park's Attitudes & Behaviors survey which measures the 40 developmental assets in our young people. We will also celebrate the important role that Asset Champions play in moving the work for Children First forward making this the best place on the planet for young people to grow up.

The breakfast planning committee is co-chaired by Lynn Giovannelli and Dr. Bob Tift. This is an inspirational event beginning at 7 a.m. with registration. The program and breakfast will run from 7:15 - 8:15 a.m. The program is free to attend and includes a light breakfast. It is a fundraiser for Children First so those in attendance will be asked to consider making a donation. A reservation is required. Make yours by emailing [Karen Atkinson](#).

Thanks to breakfast and print sponsor Japs-Olson Co. and organizations providing matching grants: Park Nicollet Foundation, Citizens Independent Bank and The Rotary Club of St. Louis Park. Other sponsors include the Doubletree Park Place Hotel and 4imprint.

If you take advantage of everything America has to offer, there's nothing you can't accomplish. ~Geraldine Ferraro

I wish that every human life might be pure transparent freedom. ~Simone de Beauvoir

Lower voter participation is a silent threat to our democracy...It under-represents young people, the poor, the disabled, those with little education, minorities and you and me. ~Nancy Neuman, Former President LWVUS



LWV SLP OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2013-14

OFFICERS:

President: Deb Brinkman
 Vice President: Judith Cook
 Secretary: Vacant
 Treasurer/W. Metro: Barb Person
 Observer: Dorothy Karlson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Voter Service: Eilseen Knisley
 Voter Service: Carlota Medus
 Membership: Judy Cook
 CMAL: Debbie Blake
 Voter Editor: Aggie Leitheiser

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.)

- First Year Introduction Special \$25.00**
- Voter Subscription Only \$10.00
- Single Active Attending Member \$45.00
- Supporting/Member-at-Large \$50.00
- Family Membership (household) \$70.00
- Add me to The Voter eMail Distribution List (free)

Make checks payable to LWV SLP

Send your check and this form to:
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