



# Voter

## Calendar Highlights

### March

- 10 – Unit 3 Meeting Book Review
- 10 – Empty Bowls
- 12 – West Metro
- 19 – CMAL
- 23 – Unit 2 Meeting

### April

- 07 – LWV SLP Birthday 62!
- 23 – Board Meeting
- 27 – Unit 2 Meeting
- 29 – Legacy Luncheon
- 30 – LWV MN Council

### What's Inside...

- President's Message
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## Welcome New Members!



*Julie and George Beck!*



### **LWV Mission Statement**

*LWV, 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.lwvslp.org](http://www.lwvslp.org)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MARCH 2016

Candidates, Caucuses, Elections, oh my! I hope you were able to attend the caucus on Super Tuesday. Caucuses are a great source of energy and inspiration. Did you propose any resolutions? The League encourages everyone to be engaged in the party of your choice, and grassroots participation strengthens democracy. The League is already training and planning for candidate forums.

The February Unit 3 meeting honored Black History Month. We met at City Hall and watched the Selma Documentary. If you missed our meeting and would like to see the video, please let me know; I will be glad to lend it out. Would you march with Black Lives Matter?

The Children First Champion Breakfast was last week. Are you interested in becoming an Asset Champion? Training is free. Empty Bowls is March 10. League Member, Dorothy Karlson was instrumental in starting Empty Bowls in St. Louis Park. Empty Bowls continues to bring the community together for a great cause.

The March Unit 3 meeting will be a book review of King Peggy. Please note the date change: we will be meeting March 10. The West Metro meeting on March 12 will review the new LWVMN web site, Your Vote, Your Voice. The meeting will be held at St. Louis Park City Hall. Please join us if your schedule allows.

Mark your calendar for April 23 – our Annual Meeting. Council Member, Anne Mavity is our keynote presenter. She will be discussing Voting Rights in Russia, which will provide an interesting perspective.

### Highlights from the March LWV SLP Board Meeting:

Reviewed last month's meetings. The Selma documentary and World Population Balance meetings were good and well attended.

Kids Voting update: Peter Hobart, Susan Lindgren and Spanish Immersion want to do Kids Voting. The High School may also want to do Kids Voting.

Unit meetings: Unit 2 will watch 'The Water DVD' and Dorothy Karlson will lead Unit 3 in a book review of King Peggy.

CMAL meeting will be March 19, "How To Win Friends and Influence Your City Council" - Brookdale Library.

West Metro meeting will be reviewing the new LWVMN Website: Your Vote, Your Voice. Bring your laptop to follow along as the site is reviewed - St. Louis Park City Hall on March 12.

Barb printed invoices for membership dues for the 2016 / 2017 Program Year.

Discussed details for The Annual Meeting. We are planning to change venues and go to Aquila Commons Party Room and have the lunch catered. The meeting will start a little later than last year. Please watch your email for the invitation.

Sign Up for Council! The form is on the LWVMN web site.

Reviewed highlights of the MLD conference call and President's call.

## From the LWV MN...

### The Virtual Voter:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheVoter>

From the Virtual Voter:

**“Here’s the Buzz...”**

**League of Women Voters Minnesota Releases Briefing Paper on Impact of Neonicotinoids on Honey Bees**

A small – and very effective – committee convened almost immediately after the convention, producing a paper that was approved by the LWV Minnesota Board at its November 2015 meeting. The paper is available on the LWV MN website. <http://bit.ly/1RqBlvu>

## From the LWV US...

### Test Your Knowledge about the Presidential Nominating Process!

➤ <http://lwv.org/blog/test-your-knowledge-presidential-nominating-process>

### **ST. LOUIS PARK CHILDREN FIRST ASSETS**

#### **Positive Values**

#### **#32 Planning and Decisions Making**

Did you know 32% of St. Louis Park young people report knowing how to plan-ahead and make choices? The way we learn these skills is through practice. Encourage your child to help with household planning, menus, grocery shopping or how to manage cell phone minutes. Work together to plan family vacations or outings. Help them break larger projects into a series of steps.

Asset Champion training is *free* and available to all St. Louis Park residents.

Visit the Children First website under “[Asset Champion Training](#)” –

(<http://www.children-first.org/asset-network/>) to sign up. It is a great organization. These 40 assets are defined for teenagers – but could really apply to all adults in the St. Louis Park Community.

# YOUR VOTE --- YOUR VOICE

West Metro LWV Presents:

## LWV Minnesota's Your Vote Your Voice

### Program Introduction

Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

St. Louis Park City Hall  
Council Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
5005 Minnetonka Boulevard,  
St. Louis Park 55416

Coffee: 9:30 a.m.

Program: 10:00 a.m.

Speaker: Susan Sheridan Tucker,  
Executive Director, LWV Minnesota



Your Vote Your Voice is a new program from the State League. The intent of the program is to provide a resource for current members to connect with our future members who are still in high school. To get full benefit of this demonstration of the website that accompanies this program, feel free to bring your favorite high school student and your laptop/tablet to follow the program!

The website explores the history of voting rights in the United States in all its rich and sometimes contentious history. As we all know, there has been a long line of barriers that were thrown up to prevent certain people from voting, and there have been accompanying suffrage movements to ensure that all citizens were able to overcome those barriers to exercise their right to vote.

Our partner organizations, local LWVs, teachers and students are invited to participate in building the future of LWV. Your Vote Your Voice is an advocacy tool which will encourage our users - primarily students - to join us in making our political system open and fair, and to motivate them to be active in local politics.

Questions? Contact Barb Person, 952/546-3490 or [barbperson2049@gmail.com](mailto:barbperson2049@gmail.com)



*Sponsored by the LWV West Metro Alliance  
(Brooklyn Park/Osseo/Maple Grove, Crystal/New Hope/E. Plymouth, Golden Valley,  
Minnetonka/Eden Prairie/Hopkins, St. Louis Park, South Tonka and Wayzata/Plymouth)*

## Continued from Jan/Feb Newsletter:

### ***2 Last Things Every Voter Should Know About Money-in-Politics***

*-Opensecrets.org*

#### **All hell broke loose in the 2010 Elections [What did the Supreme Court leave us as options and why are they not being instituted?]**

After a 5-4 Supreme Court ruling opened up unlimited spending by corporations, unions and other independent groups, the 2010 midterm elections saw an unprecedented flood of outside money flowing into congressional races all over the country. Tens of millions of those dollars came from secret donors whose identities may never be known.

*Future challenges ahead on disclosure*

Opening the floodgates to unlimited corporate and union spending in elections was a major victory for groups seeking to chip away at the campaign finance laws, but other court challenges lie ahead. One of the next issues being argued is that disclosure of political contributions should be repealed.

The argument is that it's an invasion of privacy to disclose the identities of people contributing to politicians or political groups. The Supreme Court has consistently rejected this argument in the past, saying the public's right to know who funds political campaigns supersedes the donors' right to privacy, and that disclosure of donations is the best way to guard against political corruption. (Under current federal rules, contributions to candidates and political groups that do not exceed \$200 are not required to be disclosed in an itemized fashion. Instead, the total amount received from low-dollar donors, who are widely seen as not having a corrupting effect, is reported as a lump sum.)

If the Supreme Court did rule that donors no longer need to be disclosed, it would no longer be possible to tell which interest groups are funding which politicians. The detailed profiles of interest groups and politicians shown elsewhere in this app (and on the web) would be impossible to produce.

#### **They don't have to be crooks, just human [nuff said?]**

The "beauty" of the campaign finance system -- if you're trying to use it to influence the actions of public officials -- is that nobody ever has to break the law for it to work.

If you hand over money secretly to a member of Congress to get something done, that's a bribe. But if you contribute year after year to the member's campaign committee, then lobby that lawmaker whenever your issues come before Congress, that's fine.

Of course, there are big differences between those two paths. Campaign money goes to the campaign effort, not the politician's pocket. And unlike bribes, contributions are publicly reported, so everyone can see who gave to whom.

But who's looking that closely? For every voter who looks up a politician's contribution profile on OpenSecrets.org, there are probably thousands who never bother -- or didn't even know such information was available.

## *OBSERVER REPORT*

### St. Louis Park School Board Meeting – February 22

St. Louis Park resident Linda Enright spoke to the board about meals provided to students. She urged that the board consider nourishing rather than just feeding children.

Ron Latz and Cheryl Youakim gave updates about the budget for the upcoming legislative session as it affects our school district. They presented good news about the SW Light Rail but made it clear that there is not as much “extra” money available as it seems. They also reported on plans for early childhood education, testing cap, and recruitment and retention of teachers. Richardson asked that they pay attention to the funding of special education.

The Cunningham Group Architects reported that there will be a yearlong study on the use of school facilities which will help with the development of the five-year long-range master plan concerning the best use of buildings.

Superintendent Metz reported that SLP had a 93% graduation record last spring topping the state goal of 90%. There was no racial achievement gap, which was a goal that required much work and attention.

Sara Thompson reported that posters are being made with the help of the Historical Society to tell the history to the school district as part of its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The four elementary principals, all wearing some black and orange clothing, sat side by side and presented a very thorough and interesting presentation of what their schools have been accomplishing during the past year. Some facts are that 58% of students are white, 38% receive free or reduced lunch, 15% are English learners, and 13% receive special education. Information was available about the school's sizes, their staff numbers, the mission statement, and the strategic plan. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the school staff to make students successful.

### Council Meeting February 3, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. All council members were present.

January 11, 2016 Study Session minutes were approved as corrected; January 19 Study Session minutes were approved as corrected; City Council minutes of January 19 were approved as written.

The Consent Calendar was unanimously approved.

There was a public hearing and first reading of an ordinance vacating easements on Japs-Olson property. After some discussion and explanations, it was approved. A second reading of the ordinance was set for February 16, 2016.

There was a public hearing regarding an Application by Coffee House Holdings dba Starbucks for an on-sale wine and 3.2% malt liquor license for the premises located at 3850 Grand Way for the license term beginning March 1, 2016. After some discussion wherein some concerns were aired and questions asked, the application was unanimously approved. (Woo Hoo!)

Resolutions and Ordinances pertaining to an Expansion of Japs- Olson at 7500 Excelsior Blvd. was unanimously approved with several Council members remarking on their esteem of Japs-Olson.

A Motion to amend the Rules and Procedures for Boards and Commissions was unanimously approved. Almost all Boards and Commissions will have the same term start and end dates. The terms will be for 3 years. Anyone applying to be on a Board or Commission will have to endure an application process, even those applying for re-appointment.

## LWV St. Louis Park

Thu Mar 10, 2016

### 10am - 6pm Empty Bowls

**Video call:** Join video call  
**Where:** Westwood Lutheran Church  
**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park  
**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com

### 7pm - 9pm LWVSLP Unit 3 Meeting - King Peggy Book Review

**Where:**  
Community Room - St Louis Park City Offices, 5005 Minnetonka Boulevard, Saint Louis Park, MN 55416, United States  
**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park  
**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com

Sat Mar 12, 2016

### 9:30am - 11:30am West Metro - Your Vote Your Voice

**Video call:** Join video call  
**Where:** City of St. Louis Park Council Chambers  
**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park  
**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com

Sat Mar 19, 2016

### 12pm - 1pm CMAL - How to Win Friends and Influence Your City Council

**Video call:** Join video call  
**Where:** Brookdale Library  
**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park  
**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com

Wed Mar 23, 2016

### 2:30pm - 3:30pm LWVSLP Unit 2 Meeting

**Where:**  
TowerLight on Wooddale Avenue, 3601 Wooddale Avenue South, Saint Louis Park, MN 55416, United States  
**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park  
**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com

Fri Apr 1, 2016

### All day LWVSLP Birthday 62

Fri Apr 1, 2016 - Sat Apr 2, 2016  
**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park  
**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com

Thu Apr 7, 2016

### 7pm - 9pm LWV Board Meeting

**Where:** Heidi's  
**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park  
**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com

Sat Apr 23, 2016

### 11:30am - 3:30pm LWVSLP Annual Meeting

**Where:** Aquila Commons, 8200 W 33rd St, Minneapolis, MN 55426, United States  
**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park  
**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com



## LWV St. Louis Park

Wed Apr 27, 2016

### 2:30pm - 3:30pm LWVSLP Unit 2 Meeting

**Where:**

TowerLight on Wooddale Avenue, 3601 Wooddale Avenue South, Saint Louis Park, MN 55416, United States

**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park

**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com

Fri Apr 29, 2016

### 11am - 3:30pm Legacy Luncheon

**Video call:** Join video call

**Where:** Humanity Center on Ivy Avenue in St. Paul

**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park

**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com

Sat Apr 30, 2016

### 8:30am - 3:30pm LWVMN Council - Wilder Center

**Where:** Lexington and 94

**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park

**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com

Sun May 1, 2016

### All day Celebrate SLP Kids in May

Sun May 1, 2016 - Mon May 2, 2016

**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park

**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com

Thu May 5, 2016

### 7pm - 9pm LWV Board Meeting

**Where:** Eilseen's

**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park

**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com

Sun May 15, 2016

### 2pm - 5pm Children First Ice Cream Social

**Video call:** Join video call

**Where:** Wolfe Park

**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park

**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com

Thu May 19, 2016

### 7pm - 9pm LWVSLP Unit 3 Meeting - Iron Jaw Maiden

**Where:**

St Louis Park City Offices, 5005 Minnetonka Boulevard, Saint Louis Park, MN 55416, United States

**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park

**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com

## LWV St. Louis Park

Wed May 25, 2016

### 2:30pm - 3:30pm LWVSLP Unit 2 Meeting

**Where:**

TowerLight on Wooddale Avenue, 3601 Wooddale Avenue South, Saint Louis Park, MN 55416, United States

**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park

**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com

### 7pm - 9pm Scholarship Presentation

**Video call:** Join video call

**Where:** SLP High School

**Calendar:** LWV St. Louis Park

**Created by:** deb.brinkman@gmail.com



**LWV SLP OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2014-15**

**OFFICERS:**

President: Deb Brinkman  
 Vice President: Barb Person  
 Secretary: Shelly Colvin  
 Treasurer: Judy Cook  
 Observer: Dorothy Karlson

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Voter Service: Eilseen Knisley  
 Public Relations: Judy Cook  
 Membership: Barb Person  
 CMAL: Debbie Blake  
 Voter Editor: Heidi Stulberg

**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**

**(a portion of dues are now tax deductible):**

- Single Active Attending Member \$55.00
- Supporting/Member-at-Large \$60.00
- Family Membership \$70.00  
 (2 or more in single household)

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

Barb Person, Membership Chair  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED