



Voter

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November Calendar

November 6, 2012

Election Day!

November 7, 2012 – 7 pm

LWV SLP Board Meeting

Location: Eilseen Knisley’s home

November 10, 2012 – 9 am

West Metro

Topic: Appointment or Election of Judges

Location: St. Louis Park City Hall

November 14, 2012 – 7 pm

LWV SLP Unit 2 Meeting

Topic: Citizens United Briefing Paper

Location: Parkshore Card Room

November 15, 2012 – 7 pm

LWV SLP Unit 3 Meeting

Topic: Citizens United Briefing Paper

Location: St. Louis Park City Hall

November 27, 2012 – 6 pm

Dinner and Phonathon

Location: Deb Brinkman’s Home

Upcoming Events

December 4, 2012 – 7 pm

LWV SLP Board Meeting

Location: Judy Cook’s home

December 12, 2012 – 12:30 pm

Unit 2 Meeting

Topic: Lively Issues

Location: Parkshore Card Room

December 20, 2012 – 7 pm

Unit 3 Meeting

Topic: Lively Issues

Location: SLP City Hall

November Unit Meetings
The 2010 Citizens United Decision and Minnesota Campaign Law

In January 2010, the United States Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (FEC)* provided that corporations and other entities may make unlimited political expenditures, opening the door to a new flood of money in our elections. In the dissenting opinion, Justice John Paul Stevens said "while American democracy is imperfect, few outside the majority of this court would have thought its flaws included a dearth of corporate money in politics." The League of Women Voters agrees.

The November meeting will be a discussion of the LWV Minnesota Briefing Paper entitled "The 2010 Citizens United Decision and Minnesota Campaign Law". Committee members, Jessica Trites Rolle and Barb Person, will lead a discussion on the topic.

Please do your homework by reading the briefing paper before the meeting.

<http://www.lwvmn.org/document.doc?id=413>

Editor’s Note:

Why did you join the League? Send in a paragraph to me, deb.brinkman@gmail.com. I’ll publish a story a month. It will be great information for the profile of our League members. See Aggie’s story on page 3.

President's Message

Election Day is getting close and I hope you have been carefully thinking about your choices. If you haven't already done so, I'd encourage you to go to the League of Women Voters 411 website (<http://www.vote411.org/>) that gives information about candidates and takes you to a link that displays candidates and information about them. Enter your address into the system and you'll see the president choices. If you want to see all the choices, click on "all my races". Another option is to go to the Minnesota Secretary of State website <http://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us/Default.aspx>. After you enter your address information, you'll see a list of the candidates. Many of them have links to their websites for more information. I hope you take advantage of today's technology to become a well-informed voter for the election on November 6.

There is increasing optimism that the Vote No campaign for the Voter ID/Voter Suppression constitutional amendment is being effective. Many of our members report conversations with friends and family in which just a little information helps change their minds about the risk of adding this amendment to our constitution. It takes just a little investment of time, so think about someone you know who might benefit from your background and information about how this amendment would make it harder and more expensive to run inclusive elections in Minnesota.

By the time you read this, the LWV SLP candidate forum has already occurred. However, it's not too late to thank our hard-working Voter Service Chairs Eilseen Knisely and Carlota Medus who made all the arrangements and coordinated all the pieces that needed to come together to make this happen. They also coordinated a successful Voter Registration Event and registered 18 new voters on September 25. This has been a particularly busy fall and their efforts are important to our League and our community.

—Aggie Leitheiser, LWV SLP President, 952-938-6255

Highlights from the October 2012 LWV SLP Board Meeting:

- Reviewed the September Unit meetings and September Voter Registration event
- Discussed arrangements for October Unit meetings which will focus on the Marriage amendment and constitutional amendments in general
- Reviewed activities for voter ID/suppression activities
- Made note of upcoming events – CMAL on the aging of Minnesota on October 21 and West Metro on Election/appointment of judges on November 10
- Discussed arrangements for November Unit meetings on the Citizens United Briefing paper
- Discussed the phonation scheduled for November 27 at Eilseen's home as part of our scholarship fundraising activities.



Worth Noting

Important Links

www.vote411.org/

Find your polling place

View your ballot

<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

Gift Wrapping

LWV members will once again be wrapping gifts at Barnes and Noble in the Ridgedale store prior to Christmas. Volunteers are needed to wrap for shifts of two or three hours.

Please volunteer by contacting Dorothy Karlson for one of these times: December 14, Friday, from 10:00 to 10:00 and December 16, Sunday, from 10:00 to 2:00. Thanks for helping with this fund raising project for our LWV.

Community Resource Directory

It was two years ago that LWV SLP collaborated with Community Education to form a Community Resource Directory. Much of the original "Handbook" created by our LWV is included in this very useful document. You can access it by going to www.stlouispark.org, click "Community Education" and then "Community Links." The internet has made this information easily available to everyone in St. Louis Park. Check it out!

Why I Joined the League Of Women Voters

Aggie Leitheiser

I belonged to LWV in the '80s but moved away and got busy with other parts of my life and didn't rejoin in my new community. I met a passionate LWV member in 2004 who helped me remember the interesting conversations and the connection to local issues that only LWV involvement can bring.

My "new" LWV has many remarkable and courageous women who have taught me so much about our community, our local and state issues, and our national rich tradition of fully understanding an issue before we take a collective position. LWV is a trusted leader in the community and brings an important perspective that is valued by citizens and elected officials.

Children First Asset #2 Positive Family Communication

Did you know 31% of St. Louis Park young people report that they and their parents communicate positively and they are willing to seek parent advice and counsel? Are you surprised by that percentage? Do you have a consistent time to check in with the kids in your family? What is going on in their lives? What is important to them?

Recycle your printer cartridges and other technical extras. Bring them to any Unit or Board meeting. We can send them in for money. Proceeds will go to support the Dollars for Scholars Scholarship.

Americans Use More Efficient and Renewable Energy Technologies

Science Daily (Oct. 24, 2012) — Americans used less energy in 2011 than in the previous year due mainly to a shift to higher-efficiency energy technologies in the transportation and residential sectors. Meanwhile, less coal was used but more natural gas was consumed according to the most recent energy flow charts released by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.



Judicial Independence And The Impartial Justice Act

Presented by LWV West Metro Alliance

Saturday, November 10, 2012

**9:00 a.m. – Coffee and refreshments, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. - Program
St. Louis Park City Hall, Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
5005 Minnetonka Boulevard, St. Louis Park**

Should we change the election of judges? What are the issues? You are invited to attend a LWV's program to hear about a proposed constitutional amendment that supports a system of selection and retention of judges. It includes: 1) an initial governor appointment, 2) an end-of-term judicial performance evaluation by an impartial board with results made available to the public, and 3) a retention election where voters choose to retain or not retain a judge. This system would provide the voters with judicial candidate performance information so they can make more informed voting decisions.

The speaker is **Sarah Walker**, Chief Operating Officer of 180 Degrees, Inc. and founder of the MN Second Chance Coalition. Ms. Walker is a Carleton College graduate and is completing her doctorate in Sociology at the University of Minnesota. She is a past member of the Minnesota Supreme Court Racial Fairness Committee. In 2010, Governor Pawlenty appointed her to the Council on Black Minnesotans and in 2011, Governor Dayton appointed her to the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission. In January of 2011, Sarah became President of the Coalition for Impartial Justice and is leading efforts to ensure a fair and impartial judiciary in Minnesota.

LWV Minnesota is a member of the Coalition for Impartial Justice, which is a broad-based coalition of businesses, law firms and non-profits working together to support judicial impartiality and independence in our state. The coalition includes more than 30 member organizations. It supports passage of the Minnesota Legislature SF1465 and HF1666 Impartial Justice Act, which has bipartisan support. The Impartial Justice Act incorporates a model very similar to that of the LWV in its 2008 Judicial Selection position. To adopt this model, public education is necessary to help citizens understand the importance of the proposed change for maintaining an impartial judiciary. And a constitutional amendment is required to change the method used to choose judges in MN.

For additional information and background reading to prepare for this meeting, go to the LWVMN home page (see link below) on the web, select the **Reform header**, and using the **Reform drop-down menu**, select **Judicial Independence**. Topics include the Role of the Judiciary, Independent and Impartial Judicial Independence; How MN Judges are Selected; Current State of Judicial Elections; MN Courts; and MN Commission on Judicial Selection, with links to other web sites. Additional information includes articles by the Star Tribune, Post Bulletin, Brennan Center for Justice and the American Bar Association.

You are encouraged to attend this informative meeting on a very important topic.

The public is invited.

*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.

<http://www.lwvmn.org>



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
MINNESOTA

Educate. Advocate. Reform.™

LWV Minnesota

Redistricting

The new [redistricted maps](#) are available online. These interactive maps feature district lookup by address, district demographics, statewide demographics, and overlay with other districts.

Voting Rights Update

We're coming down to the final stretch, and the polls are showing that LWV's work has paid off! Support for the costly voter restriction amendment has dropped significantly. In these final days, your efforts will make a difference.

- **Phonebank from home:** Please contact Chris, our intern, to get set up. cdicesare@lwvmn.org. (Chris is in the office Tues and Thurs mornings and Wed afternoon.)
- **Phonebank in the Metro:** LWV members will be phone banking in St. Paul on Friday, **Nov. 1** from 1-5 pm and **Sat., Nov. 2** from 9 am – 1 pm. You may sign up online at <http://www.ourvoteourfuture.org/get-out-the-vote/> or email the campaign at info@ourvoteourfuture.org or call the campaign directly at [651-343-6266](tel:651-343-6266). Other dates/times are also available on the Our Vote Our Future website.
- **Write Letters to the Editor:** We encourage LWV members to send letters to the editor to all local newspapers and on-line news sources in their communities. LWV Minnesota sent an email on Oct. 4 with suggested templates, which you can certainly modify and add local information. Please contact Sherri Knuth, sknuth@lwvmn.org, if you have any questions.

Join the Celebration on Election Night in honor of those working to defeat the Voter Restriction Amendment! Tuesday, Nov. 6, 8 p.m. RiverCentre Ballroom Level. 175 West Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul. Sponsored by Our Vote Our Future. RSVP: info@ourvoteourfuture.org

"The Voter" is now available online

The most recent issue of the **Voter** is on our website. This issue has information about local LWV Voter Service activities, the Voter Restriction amendment and LWV Minnesota's lawsuit, the Membership and Leadership Development program and much more. Paper copies will be in your mailboxes within the next couple of weeks.

Please note that future copies of the **Voter** will be sent via email. We will continue to mail paper copies to members by request. More information on this switch is in the **Voter**.



LWV United States

POWER THE VOTE: This Week's Challenge Activity (NEW)

There's still time to prepare your League and your community for Election Day! Read our new resource, "[Three Steps for a Smooth Election Day](#)," which includes streamlined tips for planning effective [get-out-the-vote communications](#) to your social networks and newly registered voters, assisting voters with questions or voting challenges, and/or recruiting volunteers to participate in a nationwide [poll watching](#) program to help collect relevant information and make sure voters are able to fully participate.

Take Control this Election – Commit to Vote (NEW)

Hopefully earlier this week you received our blast email asking our supporters [to commit to vote](#) this election. We know that we don't need to worry about our members turning out to vote, but we hope you'll push out the associated action (we've created this short URL: <http://www.lwv.org/go/commit2vote>), and share [this image](#) with your networks through your social media channels (both organizational and personal). [A recent study showed that social media can have a positive impact on voter turnout](#) – your friends are more likely to turn out when they know that you'll be turning out.

How to Talk to the Media about Candidates Refusing to Debate (NEW)

Each election, we hear about candidates who refuse to participate in League debates and candidate forums. Unfortunately, this is not a new occurrence. However, when candidates decide to go public with their decision not to participate, how should a League handle the media questions? [Recent research](#) done for the League by Lake Research Partners suggests that when candidates attack the League's important advocacy work as partisan and the reason for not debating, there is a great deal of public support in our favor, and it's important to keep the focus on the voters who will miss out if a debate cannot occur. Citizens are hungry for information and do not think much of candidates who refuse to come before voters to explain where they stand on the critical issues facing our communities. For Leagues in this situation, the following response has been quite effective at delivering our key messages: "The League has a long history of conducting nonpartisan candidate forums and has always taken very seriously its role in helping voters get the information they need. That's why we are particularly concerned when candidates refuse to show up and debate about the issues that are so important to our families and our communities. When a candidate decides not to attend, it's the voters who miss out. This is a lost opportunity for all voters and denies them their right to hear directly from the person seeking their vote. Skipping a debate is like skipping your own job interview. Don't the voters who are hiring you deserve to hear what you have to say?"

Election Day Op-ed Template: "Connect and Elect" (NEW)

Personalize [this Op-ed template](#) to urge all voters in your community to cast their votes. Remind the public that we all vote to take control of what matters most to us: our education and health care, the economy, our children, our parents and our environment. Use this as an Op-ed for your local newspaper, repurpose as a blog posting or comment where the public goes to get their information in your community. Make that final visible push to get everyone out to vote!

Fact Checking Getting Higher Profile: Thanks to Leagues for Helping! (NEW)

Fact checking is clearly a high profile part of this election's news stories – whether directed at political ads or televised debates. [Check out this piece](#) from CBS Sunday morning show. In meetings with local TV stations, Leagues are hearing praise for our work to offer citizens fact based information through debates/forums and voter guides. They also are telling us how much push they get from a very divided public in a toxic partisan environment. If you see TV stations running fact checking segments on air, please thank them for their work – send an email, post a note on their blogs or show public support by sending a [Supportive Letter to the Editor](#) to your local paper.

Voter ID Confusion Continues in Pennsylvania: League Forces State to Clarify Photo ID Rules (NEW)

Despite an [Oct. 2 ruling](#) by a Pennsylvania judge putting the state's new voter ID law on hold, misleading ads and announcements are creating confusion among residents less than two weeks until Election Day. The LWVPA and other voting rights groups asked the courts to compel the state to remove all ads stating photo ID is required to vote on Nov. 6th. On Wednesday, the judge sided with the League and gave state officials until Oct. 30 to respond to calls to make clear that residents don't need to show photo identification to vote on Nov. 6. Read more [here](#).



Voter ID Amendment - Vote No Letter To The Editor Published in The Patch

On Nov. 6, Minnesotans will be asked to vote on two constitutional amendments. One of those amendments would require a photo ID in order to have your vote counted on Election Day. While some ID requirements might not be a bad idea, this amendment is very bad idea and you need to vote "no." Here's why:

This will be the most restrictive voter ID law in the country; it makes no exceptions for anyone who does not have a state issued photo ID on Election Day for any reason. If you don't have the ID your vote doesn't get counted on Election Day, period. No exceptions for seniors, veterans, homeless, or people who had their ID stolen the week before. No Exceptions. It's estimated that over 200,000 Minnesotans currently lack the required ID and NO state has achieved 100 percent ID distribution to those who needed them—even when they're free. If you show up to vote without your ID you will get a Provisional Ballot. The provisional ballot system is a completely new (and expensive) additional layer of complexity that will be added to our current election system.

Here's what you need to know about provisional ballots: many of them NEVER get counted. In some Florida counties, as many as 94 percent of the provisional ballots didn't get counted in the last election. In one Ohio county, provisional ballots didn't get counted until 17 months after the election. On average, 30 percent of provisional ballots don't get counted—not because they are illegal votes, but because the voters can't get the state to count their votes. Election officials in Ohio refused to count thousands of provisional ballots until a judge ordered them to do so; voters literally had to go to court to get their votes counted. Does having thousands of uncounted ballots sitting around after Election Day sound like a good idea to you?

This requirement is not "common sense." If it were, courts all over the country from Pennsylvania to Wisconsin to Texas wouldn't be blocking its implementation. The courts are blocking these requirements because they DO in fact violate voters' rights.

Not only is this the most restrictive ID law, but it will be chiseled into our constitution, which means it can't be easily fixed if we have problems. If we end up with thousands of uncounted ballots, disenfranchised seniors, students, and homeless people and we don't like it, we're stuck with it. We have to go through this whole thing all over again in order to repeal the amendment.

Voter ID is worse than doing nothing about voter fraud. We have a very small voter fraud problem in Minnesota, there have been 10 documented cases of voter fraud in Minnesota since 2008. We've had two recent recounts that were conducted under a national magnifying glass and monitored by both political parties, and no fraud was revealed or substantiated. The only kind of fraud the ID could prevent is voter impersonation and there have been exactly zero cases of such impersonation in MN. The few cases of voter fraud we have are typically committed by people who have perfectly valid IDs.

If Voter ID did nothing it would simply be an expensive and irrelevant additional layer of Election Day bureaucracy, but this law will prevent perfectly legitimate voting and create unnecessary barriers for the most vulnerable people in our state. In many ways, voter ID is kind of like the gun laws the NRA is always complaining about; it will only stop law abiding citizens from exercising their rights while leaving criminals untouched. If this voter ID law goes into effect, the number of uncounted provisional ballots from perfectly legal voters will undoubtedly exceed the number of fraudulent votes. This voter ID amendment actually damages our electoral system by generating thousands of legal votes that will never be counted—we'd be better off doing nothing.

Vote "No" in November (or simply leave it blank), preserve our election integrity and make sure that everyone who has a right to vote in Minnesota will continue to have their vote counted!

-Paul Udstrand



Marriage Amendment Limits Basic Freedom

TV Spot features Rep. John Kriesel's floor speech from May 2011 talking about how marriage amendment limits a basic freedom

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kate Brickman, Press Secretary
Phone Number: 612-460-1219

October 26, 2012 – Saint Paul, MN – Minnesotans United for All Families began running a new television ad today which features State Representative John Kriesel, R-Cottage Grove, talking about how the proposed amendment limits a basic freedom for gays and lesbians to marry the person they love.

The ad features audio of Rep. Kriesel's floor speech in May 2011 in which he remembered being gravely injured while serving in Iraq and the importance of his family to him at that crucial moment.

"I was in an incident and I nearly died," Rep. Kriesel said. "I remember laying there, looking down and seeing my legs mangled. I thought about my family."

Rep. Kriesel continues, saying how this experience made him realize that those who put their lives on the line protecting freedoms should have the freedom to marry the person they love. He tells the story of Corporal Andrew Wilfahrt, a gay soldier from Rosemount, Minnesota, who was killed in action in 2011 while serving his country in Afghanistan.

"He gave his life in Afghanistan protecting our freedoms. He was gay. I cannot look at this picture and say, Corporal, you are good enough to fight for your country and give your life, but you are not good enough to marry the person you love," Rep. Kriesel said.

This is the fifth ad from Minnesotans United for All Families encouraging Minnesotans to vote no. So far Minnesotans United has released four Vote No ads, featuring John and Kim Canny, *Republicans and Catholics of Savage*; *Pretty Simple*, which highlighted the journey Minnesotans are on in realizing that marriage shouldn't be denied to anyone; *Land of the Free*, which reflects the belief of many Minnesotans that this amendment is too much government intrusion into the personal lives of Minnesotans; and *Our Values*, which featured John and Elizabeth who are voting no as a way of showing their children their values of treating others as they would like to be treated.

"These ads reflect the beliefs of many Minnesotans who realize this amendment conflicts with their core values," said Richard Carlborn, Campaign Manager for Minnesotans United for All Families. "When Minnesotans go to the voting booth on November 6, they'll measure their values of freedom and treating others as they would want to be treated against this amendment – when they do that, they'll realize voting no is how they uphold those values."

Freedom ends with Kriesel saying, "I'm pleading with you to vote no."

Minnesotans United for All Families is the official coalition campaign working to defeat the proposed constitutional amendment that would limit the freedom to marry in Minnesota. This ad is a continuation of a multi-million dollar ad buy that will continue through Election Day and encourage other Minnesotans to vote no on the amendment.

CMAL

Submitted by Debbie Blake

Council of Metro Area Leagues (CMAL)
October 19, 2012
Minnetonka. City Hall
Program: “The Graying of the Metro Area”
Presenter: LaRhae Grindal Knatterud

Attended by Delegates from Metro Leagues:
 Aggie Leitheiser, Barbara Aslakson, Dorothy Karlson , and Debbie Blake from SLP.

AGING 2030 is sponsored by the MN /Dept. of Human Services, the MN Board on Aging and the MN Dept. of Health. Their purpose is to prepare MN for the historic demographic shifts we will experience in the next 20 years.

It’s time to redefine work and retirement. Baby Boomers over 65 often say, “I’m retired.” But may have a little job or be volunteering , or taking care of their grandchildren. In 2030 the workforce will be made up of 70% of those currently in the workforce, with only 30% of new workers entering the workforce. Since the boomers are by far the best-educated workforce they will be hard to replace.

MN Volunteer Rating (# as compared to other states)

Total #3 (40.04%)
Retention #1 (76.4%)
Boomers #3 (46%)
Older Adults #3 (40.9%)

OWN YOUR OWN FUTURE

MN has begun an effort to urge Minnesotans to plan to meet their long-term needs, including how to pay for these services. It recognizes the dramatic increase in the number of Minnesotans who will be 85 and older by 2030, and the corresponding increase in the number of Minnesotans who will need help with personal care and household tasks because of age and/or disability. The Own Your Future initiative focuses on the need to increase the number of people using private financing options to pay for this type of help. Without additional private financing, the state could see significant – and unsustainable – increases in Minnesota’s public long-term care budgets.

This initiative includes 3 parallel efforts:

- Implementation of Own Your Future public awareness initiative throughout the state.
- Development of more affordable long-term care products for use by individuals who do not qualify for public programs but are not wealthy enough to self-fund their long-term care.
- Evaluation of possible changes to Medicaid to better align with and encourage private payment for long-term care.

This synopsis is taken from notes and handouts.

Debbie Blake

**From the President's Mailing
Looking At Leadership**

As we make our way through this busy election season, I have been thinking a lot about LWV members as leaders in our communities. We are part of the work of making our communities better places for all, and for bringing out an informed and excited electorate to participate in the elections. So I thought of all of us of all of us as I attended a training as part of a multi-session curriculum on diversity at the University of Minnesota last week. As part of that session we learned of a book by Juana Bordas called *Salsa, Soul and Spirit: Leadership for a Multicultural Age* New approaches to Leadership from Latino, Black and American Indian Communities. In this book Ms. Bordas outlines eight principles of leadership that I found really interesting and wanted to pass on to you as LWV leaders. Perhaps these aren't totally new theories, but they may be useful new ways of looking at leadership.

1. Sankofa: Learning from the Past

When the past is constructed in the bright light of honesty – or at least when everyone's story is told – we can begin reconstructing leadership from a Eurocentric form to one that's more diverse and inclusive.

2. I to We: From Individualism to Collective Identity

Shifting from an I to a We orientation implies an alteration in values whereby social responsibility and looking after the common good is embraced.

3. Mi Casa Es Su Casa: A Spirit of Generosity

The purpose of leadership in communities of color is to promote collective well-being by creating positive social change and securing equal opportunities through a collaborative process that develops and uplifts people.

4. A Leader Among Equals: Community Conferred Leadership

In collectivist cultures, a leader's authority comes from the group. Leaders who serve a greater purpose lessen their self-importance.

5. Leaders As Guardians of Public Values: A Tradition of Activism

The task of preserving and honoring cultural traditions and integrating these into a multicultural mosaic is a key function of leadership in a diverse society.

6. Leaders as Community Stewards: Working for the Common Good

Community stewards nurture full participation, consensus building, and respect for each individual's opinion. Only after much listening, interchange, and reflection does a collective answer or solution surface.

Looking at Leadership, Continued....

7. All My Relatives: La Familia, The Village, The Tribe

Seeing people as relatives, as members of one big family, as one's community or village, presents a different model of how leaders relate to their followers.

8. Gracias: Gratitude, Hope and Forgiveness

Gracias strengthens community, inspires optimism and allows people to keep the faith during trying times or when faced with limitation.

I haven't had the chance to read through Ms. Bordas' entire book – but I intend to. As leaders, we are often looking for new ways to think about the work that we do. Perhaps some of these principles will make sense to you as you attend to the work of your local league and community. And, if you have leadership theories or ideas you would like to share, let me know. I am hoping this might be a place, from time to time, where those ideas and ways of knowing can be shared here with our LWV leader community.

- Adapted from Session Two of the Equity and Diversity Certificate held by the University of MN Office of Equity and Diversity on Sept 21, 2012.

Stacy Doepner-Hove

LWV Minnesota President

12 hours To Master the Affordable Care Act

<http://www.mnbudgetproject.org/events>

Do you find the Affordable Care Act a little daunting?

Are you wondering what it will mean for your organization and the people you serve?

Over the course of 12 lunch hours, you can get the information you need to make sure that Minnesota makes health care reform decisions that are in the best interest of your community. This lunch hour series gives you the opportunity to hear experts talk about the Affordable Care Act – and ask your questions.

Come for one hour; come for them all, to learn how you can make a difference!

Or Visit the website to view the handouts after the lunch hour sessions.

All lunch hour discussions are held from noon to 1 pm at the
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
2314 University Avenue West, Saint Paul

Powering The Vote To Election Day

Elisabeth MacNamara Huffington Post Blog

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/elisabeth-macnamara/special-interest-money_b_1857891.html

While the candidates continue to hammer the campaign trail, I've reached the end of my election season travel. It has been remarkable in so many ways. Unlike the candidates, my mission was not to get individual votes, but to encourage all eligible voters to cast a vote, and make sure they are well prepared and can do so freely and fairly. That's why the League of Women Voters developed its comprehensive election website, www.VOTE411.org. It's vitally important that every eligible voter turns out to vote in this election and takes control of what happens to our families and communities. The stakes are high for our country.

During the past six weeks, I visited eight states and saw firsthand how Leagues are protecting voters' rights and educating voters. As attacks on voting rights proliferated, Leagues across the country have been working to prevent voter disenfranchisement and confusion. Together, with partner organizations, we've secured many victories for voting rights all across the country.

Common sense recently triumphed in Ohio when the U.S. Supreme Court decided that the lower court's ruling on three days of early voting just before Election Day should stand. The Ohio League's coalition work was not in vain. Florida, too, was the scene of early voting challenges and voter roll purging efforts to which the League responded quickly. In Colorado, the League's concern was also voter roll purging. I met with the Secretary of State, who, unfortunately, did not help to mitigate our concerns despite an earlier report that he would not pursue this issue.

A high point of my travels was meeting with elections officials, who are doing their utmost to ensure that elections are free, fair and accessible to every eligible voter and working side-by-side with our Leagues to accomplish this goal. In Missouri, Democratic and Republican election commissioners in Independence were truly concerned about the likely confusion over voter ID requirements and are training their workers to give voters correct information.

In Florida, the League's voter registration efforts were put on hold for about a year, while the courts dealt with lawsuits. Ultimately, reason prevailed, but Leagues had to make up for lost time. They worked together with the Secretary of State, despite earlier differences, in support of a common goal - to register as many voters as possible in the short time left. In fact, the Florida Leagues continued the push until the very last minute.

Confusion over voter ID was a common theme along my trip. After winning their lawsuit, one way the Wisconsin League is combating confusion around the issue is by training observers to monitor the polls on Election Day. Its poll observer program opened doors to positive action from the state Government Accountability Board (GAB) in assisting elections officials to improve the process for election officials and voters. GAB, a nonpartisan board comprised of retired judges, is unique and refreshing in election administration and has worked with its constituencies to improve the state's process.

Elisabeth MacNamara, continued....

In North Carolina another state where voter photo ID was defeated, it was a pleasure to personally thank Governor Beverly Perdue for supporting the League's efforts to protect the state's voters in this election. Her veto means North Carolinians will not have to produce restrictive, government-issued photo ID at the polls.

In Michigan, also, thanks to the Governor's vetoes during the summer, the League was successful in helping to keep voters from having to produce unnecessary photo ID at the polls and re-affirm their citizenship on their ballots. Remaining doubts on the latter issue were resolved after my visit by a judge's order that the Michigan Secretary of State remove the question asking voters if they are U.S. citizens from ballot applications in the November election.

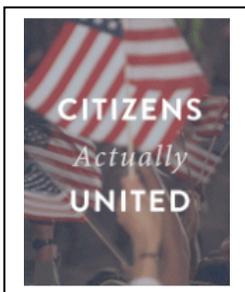
In Minnesota, the League is still battling an amendment to their state constitution that would require photo voter ID. As in other states, the Minnesota League opposes this amendment because it is costly and complicated, and would create serious consequences, not to mention being unnecessary. While in Minnesota, I had several opportunities to get the word out on the League's mission to ensure free and fair elections for every eligible voter and on why the ballot amendment would be bad for Minnesota.

Observing our Leagues in action, meeting League partners, elections and other government officials, and participating in local activities was energizing beyond measure, and this photo album is a great reminder of my travels this fall.

Today, we are just days away from the main event -- Election Day. The League will be working through November 6th to make sure every voter is served fairly and is prepared to vote. Our premier election website, www.VOTE411.org, stands ready to provide every voter with the information they need to vote. Our members will be serving as poll observers in their communities and answering voters' last minute questions on Election Day. We are certain voters will be empowered to take control of their future because of our members' hard work on the ground.

Together, through our votes, we will take control over what happens to our family, our community and our country. Every vote counts and our votes will make a difference. Join with voters around the country and take control this election -- commit to voting today!

This election is critically important; too much is at stake for all of us -- our jobs, our healthcare, our future. So wield your power -- VOTE!



Midwest Democracy Network Working Together To Strengthen Democracy

An alliance of more than 25 nonprofit, nonpartisan civic engagement organizations dedicated to improving the condition of democracy in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and

October 25 2012 at 02:53 PM

Polls show overwhelming opposition to money in politics, support for disclosure, public financing

A new poll released by the Corporate Reform Coalition shows that over 80 percent of Americans feel that secret campaign spending is bad for democracy, and nearly 90 percent believe that there is too much corporate money in politics. Poll results also found that overwhelming majorities within both major political parties (as well as independents) believe that big money makes politicians corrupt, and drowns out the voices of "average Americans."

Eighty-seven percent of Americans agree that prompt disclosure of campaign expenditures would help voters hold companies accountable for their political activity, but spending by "intermediaries" such as the US Chamber of Commerce remain largely hidden, says a press release from the Coalition.

"Americans across the political spectrum have long held transparency in campaign finance to be crucial to the success of democracy. This poll shows that the public wants to close the backdoors to secret political spending," said Blair Bowie, Democracy Advocate at the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

"This poll reflects what we are seeing at the state level," said Susannah Goodman, Director of Corporate Accountability at Common Cause. "Americans are fed up with secret corporate spending. They are ready to take action—boycotts, divesting stock, signing petitions, protests - whatever it takes to send a strong message to corporations to keep their money out of our elections."

An analysis from Demos dives deeper into the poll results, showing that nearly half of respondents strongly believe that there is too much money in politics, and that secret money is bad for democracy. There's also strong support for third party disclosure, small donor public financing, and shareholder approval of political spending.

Eleven Facts About Nuclear Energy

www.Dosomething.org



1. Nuclear power plants produce about 20 percent of America's power.
2. There are over 400 nuclear power plants worldwide.
3. While nuclear energy produces less waste than fossil fuels, its radioactive waste must be stored in special containers and buried beneath the earth's surface, typically in a mountain, until it is no longer hazardous.
4. Almost 3 million Americans live within 10 miles of an operating nuclear power plant.
5. Nuclear energy comes from uranium, a nonrenewable resource that must be mined.
6. In 2009, America produced 798.7 billion kilowatts of nuclear energy, more than twice that of any other country and over 30% of all the nuclear energy generated worldwide that year.
7. Nuclear power plants use nuclear fission (the process of splitting of an atom in two). Nuclear fusion (the process of combining atoms into one) has the potential to be safer energy because it is produced at a much lower temperature. However, nuclear fusion technology has not yet been developed to operate within a large power plant.
8. Every 18 to 24 months, a power plant must shut down to remove its spent uranium fuel, which has become radioactive waste.
9. United States power plants produce 2,000 metric tons of radioactive waste every year.
10. In 2008, nuclear power replaced an estimated 690 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere.
11. Nuclear power plants generate nearly three-fourths of America's clean-air energy.

Thank You From Our 2012 St. Louis Park High School Scholarship Recipient

Dear Deb and LWV,

My pursuit to obtain a higher education has been my lifelong goal and to pursue my dreams I am attending University of Minnesota Morris. I plan to major in Psychology and Liberal Arts for Human Services in order to help people overcome their hardships. The scholarship I have been given is an amazing gift which will help me finance my education. I am the first person in my immediate family going to college and it's great seeing there are people who are willing to help. I truly

appreciate the support given. thanks to everyone who make the scholarships possible. You all are amazing people!

With much gratitude,
Ma^a Ariana Lem



Observer Reports

Observer Coordinator: Dorothy Karlson 952-935-4051

St. Louis Park City Council Meeting

October 15, 2012

Judy Cook, Observer

The City Council convened at 7:00 pm on October 15, 2012. The council approved a Motion to assess delinquency fees on unpaid bills for city services. The motion passed. Councilwoman Sanger requested the city determine a more meaningful way to penalize delinquent accounts than a year-end fee.

The council passed a motion to adopt a resolution setting the 2013 budget and property owner service charge for special service districts 1 through 6.

The council refused a high-density land use plan for the Eliot School property after a proposal by the developer and several objections to said proposal by adjacent property owners.

The Council passed a resolution approving a housing improvement fee for the Greensboro Condominium Improvement Area.

There was some discussion regarding the change in the contract of Eureka recycling.

The meeting closed with a communication regarding the annual family Halloween party and adjourned about 9:15 p.m.

National Voter Registration Day

September 25, 2012

We registered 18 voters on September 25. The League set up a table at the ICON Theater Lobby at the West End here in St. Louis Park. Thanks go out to Debbie Blake, Judith Cook, Sue Sanger, Aggie Leitheiser, Barb Person, Shirley Bierma, Deb Brinkman and Carlota Medus. Even though we only registered 18 people, the good news is that all but a few people are already registered voters.

Eilseen Knisely
Voter Service Chair

**St Louis Park School Board
October 22, 2012
Dorothy Karlson, Observer**

A new Board member was sworn in at the beginning of the Board meeting. He is Ken Morrison who takes the place of Pam Rykken who resigned.

Two parents took advantage of Open Forum to ask that the Board consider adding on to Peter Hobart School because of overcrowding. Board Chair Jim Yarosh said that they were aware of the situation and would continue to study it.

Kathy Milbreth explained the new breakfast program at Aquila. Because the school has more than 50% of students receiving free and reduced lunch, a free breakfast is offered to all students attending that school. She explained that 250 students receive their food and proceed to their classrooms. This number is expected to grow.

Mike Nordean, coordinator of ATPPS (Alternative Teacher Professional Pay System/Quality Compensation), reported changes in the components of the current plan. This is a system of paying teachers based on teacher observation, professional development, and student growth. The plan changes requested were approved by the board.

Sandy Salin, business director, gave an update on the 2012-2012 enrollment in the SLP schools. There are 2058 students in the elementary schools, 1311 in the Middle School, and 4293 in the High School. Average class size in the elementary schools is 23.8 with classes ranging from 20.8 to 29.7.

Kimberly Hergott serves as Director of Human Services in the place of an Assistant Superintendent. She told how her role supports the strategic plan of the district and stated the goals of her position.

Two policies were presented for first reading and two for second reading. Two additional policies were approved by the Board.

The consent agenda was approved and the retirement of Mary Schultz was acknowledged.

Bruce Richardson asked that people go to see "I'm All Shook Up," the play that will be presented at the High School during the first two weekends of November. Nancy Gores pointed out the 10th anniversary of Paul Wellstone's death and quoted his philosophy of education that echoes what the SLP school district is endeavoring to accomplish.

Dorothy Karlson is coordinating the 2012 – 2013 Observer Reports. If you can attend a City Council Meeting or School Board meeting and type up a brief review of the meeting, please contact Dorothy at 952-935-4051. Remember to wear your pin at the meetings – our presence at the meetings is noted and appreciated.



Your source for voting information: <http://vote411.org/>

LWV SLP OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2011-2012

OFFICERS:

President: Aggie Leitheiser
Vice President: Deb Brinkman
Secretary: Allyson Hammer
Treasurer/W. Metro: Barb Person
Observer: Dorothy Karlson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Voter Service: Eilseen Knisley
Voter Service: Carlota Medus
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Voter Editor/Web: Deb Brinkman

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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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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