



**League of Women Voters
St. Louis Park
66th Annual Report and
Meeting Materials**

*Saturday, June 13, 2020
Online via GotoMeeting!*

<https://www.gotomeet.me/LWVSLP>

**Speaker: Nadia Mohamed
St. Louis Park City Council Member**



***Sign In
Business Meeting
Presentation***

***9:45 am
10:00 am – 11:00 am
11:00 am – 12:00 pm***

**66th ANNUAL MEETING
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ST. LOUIS PARK
June 13, 2020**

Business Meeting Agenda

Call to Order, Roll Call of Units, and Introductions	
Welcome to New Members	
Adoption of Order of Business and Rules for the Meeting.....	Page 2
Mission Statement and Diversity Policy	Page 2
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Report of Nominating Committee	Page 17
Election of Board members.....	Page 17
New Business	Page 17
Adjournment	

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Presentation of all recommended and non-recommended items
2. Discussion of all items on the floor
3. Break to sign up for a study item on the floor
4. Vote on each section of program and study items before voting on non-recommended items.

RULES FOR THE MEETING

1. Each person wishing to speak will stand and give their name and unit number.
2. Discussion will be limited to two minutes per person.
3. A person will be allowed to speak a second time after all others wishing to be heard on the question have had an opportunity to speak.
4. Before adopting a new study item, there will be a five-minute break; five people must sign up before a new study item is adopted.

MISSION STATEMENT LWV SLP

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

DIVERSITY EQUITY and INCLUSION POLICY LWVMN, LWVUS rev. 02.26.19

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

The Minutes from last year's meeting need to be approved.

**League of Women Voters St. Louis Park
65th ANNUAL MEETING Minutes
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ST. LOUIS PARK
May 11, 2019**

Co-Presidents Debbie Blake and Deb Brinkman called the meeting to order at 10 am. The meeting started with introductions and ice breaker: can you tell us how the League fills your life. The Order of Business was approved.

Announcements were read by Co-President Deb Brinkman. Lifetime member, Eleanor Sachs was remembered and recognized. The board reports were approved. The proposed local program was approved. The Bylaws were adopted. Policy updates reviewed: The DEI policy was updated. The Empty Chair policy was updated. The changes were approved.

Board members were recognized. Co-President Debbie Blake presented each Board member with a rose. The nominating committee report was approved.

New business:

Two topics of focus for next year were recommended: SLP criminal justice and Dyslexia. Dyslexia did not receive enough volunteers to move forward. The calendar items for the summer were reviewed and then President Brinkman asked each member to complete the program ballot to prepare for next year's planning meeting in August.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 am.

2019 President Announcements

**Annual Presidents' Report
2019 - 2020**

Summer 2019

We marched in the 2019 Parktacular Parade. We handed out I will vote stickers. We also set up a booth for the Parktacular Expo. We took voter registrations and supported the City RCV education and mock election with Johnny Pops. President, Deb Brinkman stepped down from being LWVSLP President to run for SLP City Council. Co- President, Debbie Blake led the League through 2019.

Fall, 2019

We held our annual planning event in August and coordinated several voter registration drives. We hosted a candidate forum for Mayor and City Council positions. Our first St. Louis Park RCV election was successful, with most residents selecting multiple choices. We led Kids Voting for another successful year. Kids did not use RCV ballots.

Winter, 2019

Our annual fund raising event continues to be gift wrapping at Barnes and Nobel. We reviewed our positions in a Lively Issues unit meeting and Ron Latz was able to attend our chili lunch and legislative interview. To meet campaign finance regulations, everyone paid \$1 for lunch. At a special board meeting, Deb Brinkman volunteered to be co-president with new member, Claudia Johnston. Claudia subsequently stepped down because of a desire to increase her political activity.

Spring, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic changed our priorities. We adhered to Governor Waltz's Stay At Home initiative and all meetings became virtual using Zoom and GotoMeeting. We did hear from Nick Harper, LWVMN Civics Engagement Manager who provided an update on the bills at the legislature. Most of the legislative activity LWVMN tracked centered on COVID-19 and voting activity. Our LWV scholarship was awarded to Victoria Caraballo. There was no ceremony, recipients will receive their award in the mail.

Summer, 2020

All city events were cancelled due to the pandemic. The LWVSLP Annual meeting was rescheduled to a virtual meeting on June 13.

2019 - 2020 Board and Portfolio Reports

SECRETARY REPORT

The Secretary position was recently filled by Patricia Campbell.

VOTER SERVICE REPORT – Eilseen Knisely, Voter Service Chair

LWV SLP held a forum for School Board District 283 candidates on October 1, 2019 at City Hall, eight candidates were vying for four 4-year seats on the School Board. Patty Robles from the Wayzata/Plymouth league moderated the forum.

On October 17th we held a forum for St. Louis Park Mayor and City Council Member At Large A and B. Two candidates ran for Mayor, 3 for City Council At Large A, and two for City Council At Large B, Beth Johnson from the BPOMG League was our Moderator.

Both forums were aired live on St. Louis Park Civic TV channel 17 to be rerun up until the General Election., announcements for both forums were published in the Sun Sailor newspaper. League members welcomed guests, provided snacks, and collected questions from the audience.

The LWVMN Legislative Interviews were held on January 11, 2020 at the Union Congregational Church in St. Louis Park. Senator Ron Latz, Senate District 44 was the only representative able to attend. Cheryl Youakim and Ryan Winkler sent their regrets. Interviews are always followed by our famous Chili Luncheon, it is time to socialize with fellow members and our representatives always stay and continue the conversations.

Voter registration continued with Cap & Gown Day at the High School, it is always our #1 opportunity to register voters.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Eilseen Knisely, Membership Chair

The importance of registering voters is the reason LWVSLP has four new members, creating a committee before the November Election is a priority.

Please welcome Karen Javurek, Georgette Michelette, Susanna Presseller, and Judy Reinehr to LWV SLP.

We have 4 Supporting Members, 34 Active Members, 3 Family Members, and 4 Life Time Members.

LWV St. Louis Park VOTER Newsletter Report – Laurie Lykken, Voter Editor

Being Voter editor has helped me keep my eyes open to what is happening with voting and citizen rights and environmental concerns. I am on the look-out for items of interest to include in newsletter each month. When I stumble on something that can't wait, I create a Facebook post, double checking when I do to make sure I am not reposting something another member has already posted. (Several people post on the LWV SLP FB page. That is not exclusively a Voter editor task.)

Because I post a copy of the Voter on our local League's website, I have also taken up editing the homepage to be as relevant and current as possible. I have also done other additions and changes there.

Mostly, however, I work on the Voter. How much time does that take? It's hard to count up the time spent hunting for info or emailing members for their contributions. But the actual creation of the Voter takes about 8 hours. This is not continuous. I use a previous Voter as a template and modify that as needed. After I think I am finished, I give myself a break and then reread and correct what's there.

Down the road, I think it would be fun to work with other people on gathering info and planning how the Voter should look and what should be located where. In other words, a team effort. At the moment, I work alone. It's not that I need help. But I would welcome participation from upbeat, enthusiastic people who are into organization newsletters and making sure they contain information that members need and may have missed while looking attractive (the newsletter and not the person). Having other members regularly contribute a column would also be good. Anyway, it's fun and I am happy to do it.

WEST METRO ALLIANCE - Barb Person, West Metro Representative

The West Metro Alliance of LWVs sponsored only one meeting this year.

On Nov. 9th 2019 a meeting on the New Presidential Nominations Primary & Precinct Caucuses was held at Brookview Center in Golden Valley.

Michael Wall from the Secretary of State's Office, spoke to inform LWV members on how the primary and caucuses would work in nominating candidates for the Nov. 2020 general election ballot. Representatives from two of the major political parties were invited but because the GOP representative called in sick, the DFL representative kept her comments non-partisan to assist members in understanding the process.

Members of West Metro assisted the local cable network in Golden Valley. A link to the program was distributed to all West Metro LWVs and LWV Minnesota.

Because of many voter registrations activities in early 2020, West Metro LWVs felt planning another meeting in March would be too time consuming. As it turned out, a meeting would have been canceled due to the Corona Virus Pandemic.

When life returns to normal, if that's possible, we hope you'll take advantage of the informative programs that are planned each year. Most presentations are followed by a question and answer session which usually help us further explore each subject.

CMAL (Council of Metro Area Leagues), Shelley Colvin, CMAL Delegate

At its January 11, 2020, meeting delegates to the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL), following a prioritization process, supported as its first priority a CMAL study on county government in the metro area. CMAL last studied county government (and adopted its current position) in 1975. The study will enable review of the current position.

The CMAL Board set in motion a one-year study that will (in general) include the following elements:

- Comparison of county functions and methods
- Comparison of county governance (transparency, accountability, advisory bodies, etc.)
- Description of county interface with metropolitan government (Metro Council, etc.)

It will include an opportunity for all league members (not just CMAL delegates) in the metro area to interview county officials with a survey instrument provided for that purpose.

The launch date for this study was to be at the CMAL Annual Meeting which has been postponed and so it is pending in until further notice.

Lively Discussion about the future of the Metro Area and where CMAL should focus in the future

(LWVSLP members were not able to attend this interesting meeting as it conflicted with a LWVSLP program)

On January 11, 2020, CMAL hosted Todd Graham, principal forecaster of the Metro Council, at Autumn Grove Park gathering center in Roseville, attended by 40+ LWV members from around the metro area. Graham presented forecasting about population, households, housing and employment in the metro area from the present to 2040. Graham's presentation discussed metro area population growth (from 2,642,000 in 2000 to 3,41,000 in 2030), household formation (from 1,020,000 in 2000 to 1,351,000 in 2030) and employment (from 1,608,000 in 2000 to 1,900,000 in 2030). He also highlighted information about birth trends (low for native born whites and higher for black, Asian, and Latino populations) as well as likely sources for future employees (remote workers, older workers delaying retirement, immigrants from other states and other countries) to meet the demand for employees by metro area employers.

When pressed, during the Q & A, Graham stated that his #1 concern was about the disconnect between the growth of household income and the run-up in housing prices. He declined to offer a magic bullet solution to the affordable housing problem. He also acknowledged the need for the metro area (and Minnesota) to attract workers from outside our state to meet employers' needs for employees.

Following Graham's presentation, CMAL's committee reviewing the CMAL program for action engaged members in a lively discussion and prioritizing event. Among attendees, there was major support for CMAL research on county government, land use/environment, and housing. The CMAL board will digest the input and develop plans for future CMAL studies.

Summary by Karen Schaffer, chair of CMAL

OBSERVER PROGRAM REPORT– Judy Cook, Observer Chair

Thank you to everyone who participated with the Observer Corps by observing a City Council meeting or a School Board meeting or both. It is so important that our elected officials know that we are present, interested and observing. People who observed for the first time this year commented that they enjoyed it.

We observe from September through May. All meetings occur on Monday nights, unless Monday is a holiday. The meetings then occur on Tuesday. There are 2 Council meetings each month and one School Board meeting each month.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the LWV Observer Corps, please contact me.

SPECIAL REPORT – RANKED CHOICE VOTING – Deb Brinkman, RCV Representative

St. Louis Park held its first RCV election for City Council Seat At Large A. The City Election Staff did an excellent voter education program. League members supported their efforts especially during voter registration drives.

SPECIAL REPORT – KIDS VOTING – Debbie Blake

Kids Voting was a continued success. Children from second grade thru eighth grade in the SLP Public Schools voted. More students seemed confident and better prepared to cast their vote for the candidates of their choice. The schools continue to take on more responsibilities.

TREASURERS REPORT - Barb Person, Treasurer

League of Women Voters St. Louis Park			
LAST REVISED 05/04/20			
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES			
	Budget		Actual
Income	2019-2020		2019-2020
Dues	\$ 1,700.00		\$ 2,235.00
Contributions - General	\$ 200.00		\$ 640.00
Scholarship Program	\$ 300.00		\$ 335.00
Fundraiser - Gift Wrapping	\$ -		\$ -
Promo Mailing	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Chili Luncheon	\$ 130.00		\$ -
LWV/MN - Voter Service Grant			\$ 20.00
Annual Meeting Income	\$ 150.00		\$ -
Interest Income	\$ 200.00		\$ 270.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 2,880.00		\$ 3,700.25
Optional Income from CDs	\$ -		\$ 0.25
Total Income with Option	\$ 2,030.00		\$ 2,038.00
	\$ 4,910.00		\$ 5,738.25
Expenses			
Assessments (PMP)			
State PMP	\$ 800.00		\$ 987.52
National PMP	\$ 1,100.00		\$ 1,232.00
CMAL	\$ -		
Voter Newsletter	\$ -		
Education			
Voter Service	\$ 200.00		\$ 146.75
Scholarship (Dollars for Scholars)	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
State Convention Scholarship	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Natl Convnt Scholarship	\$ 300.00		\$ -
Website	\$ 25.00		
Children First - Ice Cream Social	\$ 25.00		
Annual Meeting	\$ 400.00		\$ 375.83
Promotion - Voter Registration Aprons	\$ 100.00		\$ 31.35
Awards	\$ 25.00		\$ 77.46
Board Supplies	\$ 50.00		\$ 57.49
Candidate Forums			\$ 67.32
Donations to Other Orgs			
ERA	\$ -		\$ -
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,725.00		\$ 3,675.72

BUDGET REPORT
Submitted by the Budget Committee

League of Women Voters

St. Louis Park

	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
	2020-2021	2020-2021	2021-2022	2021-2022
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES				
INCOME				
Dues @43	2,810.00		2,810.00	
Contributions - General	100.00		100.00	
Scholarship	300.00		300.00	
Program	-		-	
Fundraiser - Gift Wrapping	150.00		150.00	
Promo Mailing	-		-	
Chili Luncheon	20.00		20.00	
LWVMN - Voter Service Grant	250.00		250.00	
Annual Meeting Income	300.00		300.00	
Interest Income				
TOTAL INCOME	3,930.00		3,930.00	
Voter Service Idea - LWV promo items				
Optional Income from CDs				
Total Income with Option				
EXPENSES				
Assessments (PMP)				
State PMP	1,120.50		1,120.50	
National PMP	1,328.00		1,328.00	
CMAL	-		-	
Voter Newsletter	-		-	
Education				
Voter Service	175.00		175.00	
Candidate Forums	75.00		75.00	
Scholarship (Dollars for Scholars)	500.00		500.00	
State Convention Scholarship	200.00			
Natl Convnt Scholarship	-		300.00	
Website	-		-	
Kids First (Children First, Kids Vote?)	-		-	
Annual Meeting	400.00		400.00	
Promotion - Voter Registration	50.00		50.00	
Awards	75.00		75.00	
Board Supplies	60.00		60.00	
Donations to Other Orgs				
ERA	-		-	
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,983.50		4,083.50	

LAST REVISED: 04/05/20

**2020 Proposed Program
League of Women Voters of St. Louis Park**

GOVERNMENT

Diversity

- Support the city of St. Louis Park in developing a long-range plan for hiring and promoting qualified persons of diversity who represent the diversity of our community at all levels of city government services. (1993)
- Support St. Louis Park elected officials, civic groups and community leaders in collaborating to develop a long range plan for the city to use in solving problems related to communication between diverse groups, public safety, racism, violence, and maintaining neighborhoods. (1993)

Initiative and Referendum

- Support of the continuation of legislative initiative and compulsory voter referendum on constitutional amendment; opposition to most forms of voter initiative and referendum on statutes.
Suggested update: research and update
- Opposition to recall by voters of members of the Legislature and state constitutional officers.
Suggested update: update verbiage
- Support of strict procedural limits on any process of initiative.

Details

Support of:

1. The continued initiation of constitutional amendments by the legislative branch; opposition to all forms of voter initiative of such amendments (direct, indirect or advisory).
2. The continuation of compulsory voter referendum on constitutional amendments.
3. Strict procedural limits on any form of initiative, referendum or recall considered or adopted in Minnesota, including restrictions on:
 - a. Time span for collecting signatures.
 - b. Eligibility requirements for persons signing and collecting petitions.
 - c. Percentage of signatures required, geographic distribution of signers, and verification of signatures.
 - d. Size of vote required for passage.
 - e. Procedure for repeal or amendment of a successful initiative or referendum.
 - f. Contributions to and spending for ballot issue campaigns.

Opposition to:

1. Direct initiative and advisory initiative on statutes, no agreement on indirect initiative on statutes.
2. Optional and compulsory referendum on statutes; no agreement on petition referendum statutes.
3. Voter recall of members of the Legislature and state constitutional officers; no agreement on voter recall of judges or appointed officials. (2002)

Suggested update: research and update

EDUCATION

ELL Programs

- Support the ELL (English Language Learners) program. Support additional funding for the ELL program. Support increases in the following if additional funding becomes available: Books, workbooks, reference materials, computers, teachers, and paraprofessionals. Support adequate space for the ELL program. The League does not support cutbacks in the funding for the ELL program. (1990)

DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION

- Support St. Louis Park School District 283 in being pro-active in working to ensure that students and school personnel understand the increasing diversity of the students. (1993)
- Support the teaching of history, culture, literature and arts of other cultures including LGBTQ, African-Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic- Americans Native-Americans gender identity, on an ongoing and comprehensive basis. (1993).
- Support the development of a long range, pro-active plan to hire qualified persons of diversity, and that it uses the assistance of its present minority personnel in doing this. (1993)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Recycling

- Support the expansion of recycling of solid waste, organics, including plastics. (1987).
- Support policies that promote and protect environmental quality. (1973) (1979).

Suggested update: Add support for Climate Action Plan

SOCIAL POLICY

Domestic Abuse

- Support mandatory arrest of the offender as part of the stated policy and guidelines that police must follow. (1988)
- Support the handling of domestic abuse cases in criminal court. (1988)
- Support an intervention/advocacy program in St. Louis Park. (1988)
- Support funding of advocacy and intervention programs through a combination of private and public funds. (1988)

Prevention of Violence

Support for violence prevention programs in our community.

1. Educational programs that emphasize self-esteem, healthy sexuality, problem solving, positive expression of emotions, nonviolent conflict resolution, and respect for others to prevent violent behavior. This would include support for:
 - a. Government-sponsored parenting and early childhood classes.
 - b. Local or state government mandating or encouraging such education programs in school curricula.
 - c. Use of public money to train teachers and administrators to use nonviolence curricula.
 - d. Training for childcare providers.
2. A requirement that adult educators, including coaches, participate in prevention of sexual harassment and violence education programs and that public money is provided for adequate training.
3. The use of public money for a statewide public information and communication campaign designed to prevent violent and sexually violent behavior; i.e. to promote healthy sexuality, nonviolent conflict resolution, and gender and race equality.
4. Efforts by state and local government to develop and coordinate programs dealing with primary prevention of violence.
5. Allocation of public monies in governmental programs to combat violence through reducing substance abuse and poverty, and by identifying and responding to individuals who have been violent or are at risk for violent behavior.
6. The following social institutions taking an active role in preventing violent behavior:
 - a. Religious community
 - b. Business community
 - c. Legal community
 - d. Medical community
 - e. Media, civic and recreation community
7. Efforts to encourage the media industry to exercise self-restraint in the promotion of violence.
8. Efforts to encourage the pornography industry to exercise self-restraint in the promotion of sexually violent pornography. (1991).

Family Services

- Support a single point of entry services for coordinating family services. (1995)
- Support computerization of the services to simplify distribution of information and to eliminate duplication. (1995)
- Support a program to supplement the public transit system. (1995)

CONTINUING STUDIES

- Study revisions of the St. Louis Park City Charter.
- Study revisions of the St. Louis Park Comprehensive Plan.
- Study housing opportunities in St. Louis Park to meet future needs of the community.

TRANSLATING LOCAL LEAGUE POSITIONS INTO ACTION

Informal action begins with every member spreading interest and information in an ever-widening circle, starting with family, friends and neighbors. In addition, we can take action by carrying this information into the community through other organizations to which we belong. Supporting legislation, which furthers League's Program, by contacting our legislators is another important action to take. No one should speak or write letters for the League without first checking with the President.

Historical notes:

Updated Family Services 2018

ESL Programs updated to ELL 2019

Diversity updated to Diversity and Inclusion 2019

Diversity and Inclusion updated to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion 2020

Added organics recycling 2020

**LWV St. Louis Park
BYLAWS
As adopted by the 2014 Convention.**

ARTICLE I: SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of St. Louis Park, LLC, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as the Local League. This local League is a wholly-owned subsidiary of League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education fund, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, d/b/a League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 2.1 Purposes. The purpose of the League of Women Voters of St. Louis Park, LLC are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2.2 Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III: LOCAL MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2.1 Local Membership. Local Members shall not be deemed to be "Members" within the meaning of the Minnesota Limited Liability Company Act, but shall have all of the rights and privileges set forth in these Bylaws.

Section 2. Types of Membership

- a. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting Members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been Members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life Members excused from the payment of dues
- b. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate Members.

Section 3.3 Rights of Members. Voting Members shall have the right to attend, participate in and vote at all meetings of the Local Members. Voting Members are also eligible to serve on the Board of this Local League, officers of this Local League and as delegates to the Convention, Council and similar meetings of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

Section 3.4 Term of Membership. The term of membership shall be one year.

Section 3.5 Resignation. A Member may resign at any time. The resignation of a Member does not relieve the Member from any obligations the Members may have to this Local League for membership dues, assessments, etc.

Section 3.6 Termination of Membership. The Board may terminate the membership of any person who fails to comply with the conditions of membership as established by the Board.

Section 3.7 Acceptance of Membership. A person shall not be deemed to be a Members of the Local League unless and until the person has been accepted as a Member in accordance with policies and procedures established by the Board.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS OF LOCAL MEMBERS

Section 4.1 Annual Meetings. The Board shall cause a meeting of the Members to be held on an annual basis for the transaction of such business as may come before the meeting. The President and Treasurer shall also report at the annual meeting on the activities and financial condition of this Local League. Such annual meeting shall be held on a date, time and place agreed to by the Board and convenient to the Members of the Local League.

Section 4.2 Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Members may be called for any purpose or purposes at any time by: the President, the Board, or ten percent (10%) of the Members. Special meetings shall be held on the date and at a place convenient to the Members of the Local League, fixed by the President or the Board.

Section 4.3 Notice. Notice of all meetings of Members shall be given to every Member, except where the meeting is an adjourned meetings and the date, time and place of the meeting were announced at the time of adjournment. The notice shall contain the date, time and place of the meeting and be given at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting and not more than ninety (90) days before the date of the meeting. In the case of a special meeting, the notice shall contain a statement of the purposes of the meeting. The notice may also contain any other information deemed necessary or desirable by the Board or by any other person or persons calling the meeting. Notice may be sent by United States Mail or by a form of electronic communication consented to by the Member to whom the notice is given.

Section 4.4 Quorum. The presence of ten percent (10%) of the Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Members.

Section 4.5 Manner of Acting. The Members shall take action by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Members present. Proxy voting is not allowed.

Section 4.6 Voting Rights. Each Members shall have one (1) vote on each matter to be voted on by the Members.

ARTICLE V: BOARD

Section 5.1 General Powers. The affairs of the Local League shall be governed by or under the direction of its Board.

Section 5.2 Number, Manner of Selection, Term of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League, elected Directors and not more than the same number of appointed Directors. One half of elected Directors shall be elected by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected Members shall appoint the additional Directors, as they deem necessary. The terms of office of the appointed Directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Qualifications. No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization unless the person is a voting member of the League of Women Voters of St. Louis Park.

Section 4. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of the resignation, death or disqualification of an officer or elected member may be filled, until the next Annual Meeting, by a majority of the vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Three consecutive absences from a Board meeting of any member without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

Section 5. Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the Program as adopted by the national convention, and state convention, and the Annual Meeting. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 5.6 Compensation. No person shall receive compensation for serving on the Board. In addition, a Member of the Board may be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the Member in rendering services to this Local League, as the Board from time to time. Determines

Section 5.7 Committees of the Board. The Board may establish committees of the Board and determine the number and the identity of the persons to serve on such committees. Committee members must be natural person, but need not be members of the Board. Unless otherwise determined by the Board, all committees shall make recommendations to the Board and shall not have the authority to act on behalf of the Board.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

Section 6.1 Meetings. There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors.

Section 6.2 Quorum. A quorum of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

Section 7.1. Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, provided that the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting. Any proposed amendment of these Bylaws also requires the approval of the Board of the League of Women Voters Minnesota.

Section 7.2. Bylaws Committee. A Bylaws Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least 2 months prior to the Annual Meeting to review and recommend changes in the Bylaws. A Bylaws Committee shall be appointed no less than once every two years. The Committee will consist of 3 members, one of whom shall be a member of the Board. The board member shall not serve as chair.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Previous Bylaws were approved on the following schedule.

As adopted by the 1954 Convention and as amended by the 1958, 1960, 1961, 1966-67, 1968, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012 Conventions.

**League of Women Voters of St. Louis Park
Board Policies
Updated 2019**

Policies adopted by the League of Women Voters St. Louis Park, hereinafter referred to as LWV SLP will be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors.

Suggestions for policies may be made by any member of LWV SLP or the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall adopt all policies.

After approval, all board members shall be given copies of the policies. Nominating committee members will also be given copies and shall alert prospective officers and directors to the nonpartisan responsibility of each board member.

NONPARTISANSHIP

The LWV SLP encourages citizen participation by its members and lobbies partisan government officials on issues. Members are encouraged to be active in their party, to actively support candidates and to run for public office as individuals. Members, as individuals, are also encouraged to introduce and vote for LWV resolutions at caucuses and conventions. Because LWV SLP must deal with the public officials of all political persuasions the LWV SLP can never be seen to favor one side or the other.

The president, voter service chair and action chair should not participate in political activity, i.e. endorsing a candidate, holding elective office appearing in campaign literature or ads, serving on steering committees for a candidate or holding party office. They should not display lawn signs, submit letters to the editor in favor of a particular candidate, or otherwise participate in activities that might publicly link them with a candidate or political party. LWV members should not display LWV lawn signs with political candidate signs. The LWV SLP Board must decide on an individual basis if a Board member's political participation does or does not compromise the LWV SLP non-partisan status.

- Any and all members of LWV SLP may lobby or advocate for local issues upon approval of the LWV SLP Board.
- LWV SLP membership lists or LWV SLP meetings should not be used to solicit political contributions or to campaign for candidates.
- The nonpartisanship of the League of Women Voters is the basis of our public credibility and must be carefully maintained. All members bear responsibility for maintaining the League's reputation for fairness and objectivity. The discussion of nonpartisan policy should be a part of new board orientation.
- A Board member may not speak publicly or work against a National, State or Local LWV position.
- Directors not in highly visible positions may hold position in a political party at any level with Board approval after consideration of possible conflicts of interest.

COALITIONS AND COMMITTEES

The LWV SLP president appoints a LWV SLP representative to serve with the group. The representative represents LWV SLP at all times and works within League positions. If not in agreement with the final decision, the representative writes a minority opinion and makes sure it is included in the final draft. IF the coalition refuses to state the minority opinion, the LWV SLP issues a disclaimer through the same channel that the report is publicized.

- A LWV SLP representative to the coalition group should not issue independent reports, letters, etc. without getting previous Board approval.
- When the project is completed the coalition or committee ends.
- The president shall have a list of the representatives of the coalition and may publish their names in a directory.

CO-SPONSORING

LWV SLP will donate time and talent but does not normally have funds to donate. LWV SLP must give written permission to have its name used in sponsoring. Each request will be considered on a case by case basis.

USE OF MEMBERSHIP LISTS

The roster of the LWV SLP is not available to any organization or individual outside the League unless authorized by the Board. There will be a statement so stating at the bottom of the front page of the roster.

REIMBURSEMENT OF BOARD AND MEMBER EXPENSES

LWV SLP Board and members submit monthly expense vouchers whether they wish reimbursement or not. Expenses must be listed for all functions Board members are required to attend and for materials needed. Receipts must be presented for reimbursement of grant funds. There is no reimbursement for unit meetings.

NONDISCRIMINATION

No LWV SLP meeting or function will be held in a place which is known to discriminate on the basis of race, religion or sex.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY and INCLUSION

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principle and in practice. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

LOCAL LEAGUE RELATIONS

LWV SLP Board members are expected to be a paid up member of the League and to participate as fully as possible in their units.

PUBLICATIONS

- Names of writers and contributors to a publication should be credited.
- All publications should be reviewed by the president.
- All local publications should be reviewed before publication.
- The Board makes the decision on price if the publication is sold. Cost of the publication, if not covered by budget, must be approved by the Board. Pricing formula, pre-publication and other expenses to be recovered include the cost of: typing and proofing time, copying supplies and time, research time, complimentary copies, postage and stationery for drafts sent to readers, travel/child care/etc., overhead or contingency expenses.
- The number of copies published will depend on the number of members, whether or not the publication is to be sold, and whether complimentary copies are to be given away. Any bulk discounts will be decided by the Board.
- Publications should be distributed digitally whenever possible. For historical purposes, major publications should be submitted to the St. Louis Park Historical Society.

VOTING MEMBERS

- LWV SLP members must have dues paid in full in order to participate in consensus and in the business of the Annual Meeting.
- Household membership will consist of two people living at the same address and both will have voting privileges. Household memberships will receive one copy of all publications.

ACTION

- Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters St. Louis Park only when authorized to do so by the appropriate board. They may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the League of Women Voters St. Louis Park, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota and the League of Women Voters of the United States.
- LWV SLP may take action on local positions with the approval of the Board.
- LWV SLP may take action on the local level under a state position if the membership is back-grounded in the issue, LWV position and the action being taken.
- LWV SLP may take action on the state level under a local position on three conditions:
 1. The legislation must not be statewide in scope.
 2. Every affected local League must be notified of the proposed action.
 3. Approval for such action must be granted by the State Board.

APPROVAL OF TESTIMONY

Any formal statement made in the name of LWV SLP must be approved by the president and at least one other Board member. A report must be made to the Board of Directors. No approval for testimony can be given over the telephone.

ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM ADOPTION

The Annual Meeting method of adopting local program shall be:

- Presentation of all recommended and non-recommended items.
- Discussion of all items on the floor.
- Break to sign up for a study item on the floor.
- There shall be a three minute recess to sign up at least two members to work on each proposed new study. If two do not sign up, the proposed study will be dropped from consideration.

DIVERSITY EQUITY and INCLUSION POLICY

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

CANDIDATE FORUMS

The League of Women Voters St. Louis Park (LWV SLP) encourages the public to submit written or emailed questions to candidates during the forum. All questions become the property of the LWV SLP.

- All viable candidates will be invited.
- Candidates will not be provided with prepared questions in advance.
- A table will be available for distribution of campaign literature in the entryway outside the Council Chambers. No campaign literature, campaign signs (including buttons and t-shirts) will be permitted in the Council Chambers.
- Paper and pen will be provided to candidates for use during the forum. Candidates may bring a prepared opening and closing statements, plus one 4" by 6" note card with prepared notes. No other written information will be allowed as spontaneous responses are preferred.
- Picture taking or videos may not interfere with the campaign forum
- All candidates are welcome at forums. If an invited candidate is unable or decides not to appear at a scheduled event, the event will still be held. This is the case even if only one candidate appears. Unopposed candidates may appear alone.
- Compliance with LWV Empty Chair Policy.
 - No substitute representative for a candidate may appear during the question and answer portion of the forum.

- The moderator will announce that all candidates were invited to participate. No mention will be made of why a candidate did not appear, only that they declined or did not arrive. In announcing that a candidate is not participating, the moderator will present a brief statement of the factual reasons given by the candidate, if any, without any editorial comment.
- The order of speaking will be determined by the moderator.
- Strict time limits will be observed on responses – timekeepers will hold up cards to indicate 30 seconds of time remaining and “Stop” when time has expired.
- LWV SLP will determine which questions will be asked and will attempt, in good faith, to cover areas of interest expressed by the audience.
- Questions that are hostile, partisan, embarrassing, inappropriate or of a personal nature will not be allowed.
- Candidate responses that are hostile, partisan, embarrassing, inappropriate or of a personal nature will not be allowed.
- Prior to the forum, each candidate will be required to sign a release form giving permission for recording and rebroadcast of the forum.
- Evidence of intent to run for office will be required of a write-in candidate. Such evidence could include the formation of a campaign organization outlining volunteer staff, funding and evidence of public interest.
- All candidates will receive a copy of the LWV SLP Policy on Candidate Forums.
- Candidates will be asked to sign the following release:

I agree to participate in the Candidates’ Forum on _____ sponsored by the League of Women Voters St. Louis Park. I understand and will comply with the forum criteria established by the League of Women Voters. I give my consent to the broadcast and rebroadcast of the Forum, in its entirety, on St. Louis Park Civic Channel television. I understand that the tape belongs to the LWV SLP and the broadcaster and will not be available for use in political promotion.

ANNUAL MEETING

An Annual Meeting shall be held between April 1 and June 1, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting shall:

- a. adopt a local program for the ensuing year,
- b. elect officers, directors and members of the Nominating Committee,
- c. adopt an adequate budget during the even –number year, and
- d. transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Enumeration and Election of Officers. The Officers of the League of Women Voters St. Louis Park shall be a President or Co-President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at the annual Meeting and take office immediately. The President and the Secretary shall be elected in odd- numbered years. The Vice President and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years. At a minimum, LWV SLP officers shall include a President and the Treasurer. Vacancies during a term year may be filled by board appointment.

The President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors, and shall co-sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes over \$500. The President shall be ex-officio, a member of all committees and shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

The Vice President. The Vice President shall, in the event of absence, disability, resignation, or death of the President, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office, until such time as the Board of Directors shall select one of its members to fill the vacancy. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as the President and Board may designate.

The Secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the League and of all meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall notify all Officers and Directors of their election. The Secretary or Treasurer shall sign, with the President, contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be appropriate to the office.

The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due and shall be the custodian of these moneys, shall deposit them in a bank designated by the Board of Directors, and shall present statements to the Board at their regular meetings and an annual report to the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall arrange for an annual audit, or "review" of the books. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Budget Committee. The Secretary or Treasurer shall sign, with the President, contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be incidental to the office.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters St. Louis Park shall commence on the first day of May of each year.

Dues. Annual dues shall be payable April 1st. Any member who fails to pay dues by the time of the annual meeting shall not be eligible to vote on League business until dues are paid. Any member who fails to pay by July 1 shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

Budget. A Budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors to the Annual Meeting in even-numbered years for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

Budget Committee. A Budget Committee composed of two members in good standing, shall be appointed by the Board of Directors prior to the Annual Meeting in even numbered years to prepare a budget for the ensuing two years. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members before the Annual Meeting. The treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Budget Committee and the Finance Chair may be an ex-officio member of the Budget Committee.

NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of two members, one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors. Any vacancy on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors. Suggestions for nominations for Officers and Directors may be sent to this Committee by any voting member. The Membership Chair shall be an ex-officio member of the Nominating Committee.

Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor. The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for Officers, Directors and the members of the Succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to all members before the date of the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Elections. The election shall be by ballot, provided that when there is but one nominee for each office, the Secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for every nominee. A majority vote of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

POLICY PROGRAM

Authorization. The governmental principles adopted by the national convention, and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of Program.

Program. The Program of the League of Women Voters St. Louis Park shall consist of: a) action to protect the right to vote of every citizen, and b) those local governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

Action by the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall act upon the Program using the following procedures:

- a. The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations of the voting members prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a Proposed Program.
- b. The Proposed Program shall be sent to all members before the Annual Meeting.
- c. A majority vote of the voting members (members in good standing) present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the Proposed Program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors.
- d. Recommendations for Program submitted by voting members prior to the Annual Meeting but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided that: (1) the Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote and (2) the Annual Meeting shall adopt the item by a 3/5 majority vote.
- e. Changes on the Program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made provided that: (1) information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed and (2) final action by the membership is taken after board approval.

NATIONAL CONVENTION, STATE CONVENTION, AND COUNCIL

National Convention. The Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall select delegates to that Convention in the number allotted the League of Women Voters St. Louis Park under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

State Convention. The Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office, shall select delegates to that Convention in the number allotted the League of Women Voters St. Louis Park under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters Minnesota.

State Council. The Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office, shall select delegates to that Council in the number allotted the League of Women Voters St. Louis Park under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters Minnesota.

Inter-League Organization Convention. The Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of the delegates must be sent to the state office, shall select delegates to that Convention in the number allotted to the League of Women Voters St. Louis Park under the provisions of the Bylaws of the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues.

Updated 2018 reviewed and approved at the Annual Meeting

Updated 2019 reviewed by the Board of Directors Distributed to members at the Annual Meeting

Recognition of the Current Board Members

Nominating Committee Report - Eilseen Knisely, Chair

2019 – 2020 Board Members

Officer / Director	Position	Term	Appointed by	Name
Officer	President	2019-2021	Nominating Committee	Debbie Blake 2019 Deb Brinkman 2020
Officer	Vice President	2018-2020	Nominating Committee	
Officer	Secretary	2019-2021	Nominating Committee	Patricia Campbell 2020
Officer	Treasurer	2018-2020	Nominating Committee	Sylvia O'Brien 2019 Barb Person 2020
	Nominating Committee	2019-2020	Nominating Committee	Debbie Blake Eilseen Knisely
Director / Portfolio	Voter Service	2019-2020	Board of Directors	Eilseen Knisely
Director / Portfolio	Membership	2019-2020	Board of Directors	Eilseen Knisely
Director / Portfolio	Voter Editor	2019-2020	Board of Directors	Laurie Lykken
Director / Portfolio	West Metro	2019-2020	Board of Directors	Barb Person
Director / Portfolio	CMAL	2019-2020	Board of Directors	Shelley Colvin
Director / Portfolio	Observer	2019-2020	Board of Directors	Judy Cook
Director / Portfolio	Communications	2019-2020	Board of Directors	Shelley Colvin

2020 – 2021 Board Members –

Officer / Director	Position	Term	Appointed by	Name
Officer	Co-President	2019-2021	Nominating Committee	Deb Brinkman
Officer	Co-President	2020-2022	Nominating Committee	
Officer	Secretary	2019-2021	Nominating Committee	
Officer	Treasurer	2020-2022	Nominating Committee	Barb Person
	Nominating Committee	2020-2021	Nominating Committee	
Director / Portfolio	Voter Service	2020-2021	Board of Directors	
Director / Portfolio	Membership	2020-2021	Board of Directors	Eilseen Knisely
Director / Portfolio	Voter Editor	2020-2021	Board of Directors	Laurie Lykken
Director / Portfolio	West Metro	2020-2021	Board of Directors	Barb Person
Director / Portfolio	CMAL	2020-2021	Board of Directors	Shelley Colvin
Director / Portfolio	Observer	2020-2021	Board of Directors	Judy Cook
Director / Portfolio	Communications	2020-2021	Board of Directors	Shelley Colvin

New Business

**Voting during a pandemic – Shall we submit a Letter to the Editor
National Convention June 26 and June 27 - online**

One delegate per 50 members

Observer registration is free

Please complete the voting sheet for topics for the 2020 - 2021 Program. This information will be used for August 2020 – 2021 program planning.