



**League of Women Voters
St. Louis Park
68th Annual Meeting**

***Saturday, May 14, 2022
Aquila Commons
Community Room***

Speaker: Larry Kraft
Candidate for MN House, City Council Member,
Podcaster, Climate Activist



<i>Set up</i>	<i>9:45 am</i>
<i>Presentation</i>	<i>10:00 am – 11:00 am</i>
<i>Pastries</i>	<i>11:00 am – 11:30 am</i>
<i>Business Meeting</i>	<i>11:30 am – 12:30 pm</i>

**68th ANNUAL MEETING
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ST. LOUIS PARK
May 14, 2022**

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 3
Minutes of the Sixty-sixth Annual Meeting	Page 4
President’s Report and Announcements	Page 5
Board Portfolio Reports	Page 6
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Board Member Recognition	Page 20
Report of Nominating Committee	Page 20
Election of Board members.....	Page 20
New Business	Page 20
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.

Lively Issues meeting notes

Support a program to supplement the public transit system. (1995) - **update**

Action item: Propose a study or update at the annual meeting

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.
- Opposition to recall by voters of members of the Legislature and state constitutional officers.
- Support of strict procedural limits on any process of initiative.

Action item: see if this is in our state program and if so we can remove it from our local program – not included in lwvmn or lwvus

Support funding of advocacy and intervention programs through a combination of private and public funds. (1988) **keep –**

Action item: propose update if there are members who are willing to work on this in

Consider adding a position about housing and evictions - Propose this as a study at the annual meeting

MISSION STATEMENT LWVSLP

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 have already been approved.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ST. LOUIS PARK
April 17, Annual Meeting
Minutes

The Annual Meeting of LWVSLP, via Zoom, was called to Order by President, Deb Brinkman at 10:14 a.m. Ms. Brinkman welcome attendees. Since introductions were made earlier, she moved to the Order of Business.

The Order of Business was adopted. Attention was called to the Mission and Diversity Statement.

There were announcements of the pictures of women of diversity in the materials; the deaths of George Knisely and of Shelly Colvin's mother.

Attendees were reminded of the upcoming State LWV convention on July 17, 2021. LWVSLP may have 4 delegates at the Convention. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Barb Person announced she plans to attend.

The Millie Johnson Award for extraordinary participation and work on behalf of LWVSLP was awarded to Shelly Colvin. She is our State Representative to LWV, MN and wants to create a diversity, equity and inclusion committee within LWVSLP.

The President's Report told of program highlights. In 2020 all of our meetings were held via Zoom even the candidate forums. Board Portfolio reports were approved.

There were no proposed program changes.

Treasurer, Barb Person, reported that our income was lower than expected in 2020 and our expenses were very low as well. Ms. Person noted that our CD may require a change. She also reminded all attendees that it was time to renew our memberships. Membership renewal is due on May 1.

The By-laws and Policies of LWVSLP were reviewed by Ms. Colvin and Ms. Brinkman. No changes were made at this time.

Nominations for officers were opened. There were no nominations from the floor. A slate of officers was presented and adopted as follows:

President – Deb Brinkman
Vice President – Vacant
Secretary – Judith Cook
Treasurer – Barb Person

Portfolio Directors were appointed as follows:

Nominating Committee – Eilseen Knisely
Membership – Eilseen Knisely
Voter Editor – Emily Wacker
West Metro – Barb Person
CMAL – Shelly Colvin
Observer Corps – Laurie Lykken
Communications – Shelly Colvin
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Shelly Colvin
Voter Service – Vacant

The vacant officer position, Vice President, was discussed. Eilseen Knisely explained the position of Voter Service.

Deb Brinkman asked that any program planning ideas be brought to her.

Emily Wacker asked for a committee to distribute books regarding talking about race to children in SLP schools. She volunteered to head a committee that would do fund raising, identify books and do follow up. Volunteers to this committee are Barb Person, Eilseen Knisely, Laurie Lykken and Julie Sweitzer.

Laure Lykken proposed a committee to address pesticide use in SLP. In addition to Ms. Lykken the committee will include Dorothy Doyle, Luanne Bachman, Kathy Gremillion, Elaine Savick and Denise Aasen. Ms. Lykken is proposing a study and possible concurrence.

Debbie Blake stated her concerns regarding voter suppression.

The attendees were reminded to watch for Action Alerts from the State and National Leagues. They were also challenged to Stay Vigilant.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The guest speaker was Vaneta Shepherd, author of *Tears, Fears and Cheers: Ripples from Childhood*. Ms. Shepherd was an inspiring speaker, urging us to follow our dreams, acknowledge our worth and to understand perfection will not happen.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Cook



2022 President Announcements

2021 - 2022 Presidents' Report

Summer 2021

Many events continue to be cancelled due to the pandemic, however we did hand out 'I Will Vote' stickers at the Parktacular Parade. We renewed our zoom license to continue meeting online.

Fall, 2021

We held our annual planning event in August. We started to hold Board meetings in person, but the COVID cases spiked again and we returned to online meetings. There were no state supported Student Vote activities. We hosted a candidate forums at City Hall with no audience. We also attended the online CMAL program and learned about the water table. West Metro hosted a firearms program in preparation for consensus questions. We reviewed our positions in a Lively Issues unit meeting and Deb Brinkman shared information about efforts to abolish the Electoral College.

Winter, 2022

We hosted an online Legislative Interview meeting with Cheryl and Ryan. Ron Latz was not able to attend, as he was on holiday. We also learned about all the wonderful affordable housing programs that St. Louis Park funds with the Affordable Housing Trust Fund from Michele Schnitker, Housing Manager of St. Louis Park.

Spring, 2022

CMAL hosted a Livable Communities meeting and we learned about crime and crime prevention in St. Louis Park from one of our Community Outreach Officer, Ken Sysko. West Metro's program topic was on diversity in County Government and Laurie Lykken provided a wonderful program on pesticide use in St. Louis Park. Our Annual Meeting speaker will be climate activist, Larry Kraft.

2021 – 2022 Board and Portfolio Reports

SECRETARY REPORT – Judy Cook, Secretary

As Secretary, I attend as many monthly Board meetings as I can. I take notes, draft minutes and send them to the President for review.

VOTER SERVICE REPORT – Eilseen Knisely, Voter Service Chair

We gave out 'I Will Vote' stickers at St. Louis Park's Parktacular Parade on June 19th. It is always a fabulous way to connect with our community.

Candidate Forum for School Board Members, District 283 was held on September 21, 2021 at City Hall. The three candidates were Anne Casey, Abdihakim Arabow Ibrahim, and Mary K. Tomback. Our Moderator was Krista Adewumi from LWV South Tonka.

Candidate Forum for St. Louis Park City Council Wards 1,2,3, and 4 was held at City Hall on September 23, 2021.

Council Member Ward 1

Margaret Rog

Council Member Ward 2

Lynette Lungay Dumalag

Council Member Ward 3

Sue Budd

Saul Eugene

Jim Leuthner

Council Member ward 4

Tim Brausen

Our Moderator was Roberta Reindorf Show LWV

On January 8, 2022 we held our Legislative Interviews.

Representative Cheryl Youakim and Ryan Winkler were in attendance, Ron Latz was out of town.

Carlota Medus and Deb Brinkman organized the event via Zoom due to COVID concerns.

We were not able to hold any Voter Registration drives this year.

St. Louis Park VOTER Newsletter Report – Emily Wacker

Voter: Created and edited the monthly newsletter to keep members informed of events in the community sponsored by LWVMN, LWV SLP or other opportunities for civic engagement

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) – Shelley Colvin, DEI Director

The main DEI project this past year was translating an educational presentation of October 2020 to an activity that would benefit the community. In October 2020 a presentation was made by Emily Wacker and Shelley Colvin on Talking About Race With Children. A suggestion was made to collect picture books for small children and share them with daycares. There is a separate report on this project in this packet.

There is a report on DEI at every board meeting. This keeps diversity issues in front of our League and not something that is only pulled out when looking at program ideas.

WEST METRO ALLIANCE – Barb Person, West Metro Representative

The West Metro Alliance of LWVs sponsored two meetings again this League year. Both were virtual, on Zoom.

1. November 13, 2021 – 2021 Firearms Study by LWVMN

Mary Lewis Grow, LWV Northfield, and Co-Author of the 1990 LWVMN Firearms Study, gave her insights into the impact of firearms in our society in preparation for a consensus vote to update the LWVMN firearms position.

2. April 2, 2022 – Creating Opportunity/Reducing Disparities in Hennepin County

May Xiong, Assistant Administrator, spoke on the topic. Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene introduced the speaker.

Every year we try to cover topics that seem too large for local LWVs. We want to capture a large LWV audience and hope local LWVs will encourage their membership to support them.

CMAL - Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues 2021-2022

Metro County Government Update Study

Purpose of the Study on County Government

The purpose of this study is to update the 1975 position of the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters on county government in the metropolitan area. The 1975 position was adopted following publication in January 1975 of its study “Seven Counties in Transition,” a groundbreaking publication that compared, for the first time, the seven counties making up the newly-established metropolitan area as a geographic area subject to specific types of regulation by the newly-created Metropolitan Council. The 1975 study focused on the structure and functions of county government.

The study was completed January 2022. Mindy Greiling unveiled the CMAL study of county government on Saturday January 15, 2022. The consensus questions were sent to Leagues to discuss and answer. There was even an individual version of the consensus questions. This was due on April 8th. We will anticipate a response from CMAL on the consensus later in the year.

Programs/Presents (all on Zoom):

September 10, 2021. – “The Twin Cities are Bulging With Trash” The LWVMN Climate Change Task Force and CMAL co-sponsored a program on the metro area's trash problems. This program featured MPCA Assistant Commissioner Kirk Koudelka and Division Director Dave Benke. Gretchen Sabel from the Climate Change Task Force moderated this event.

October 16, 2021. - “Protecting the Metro Area Water Supply” co-sponsferred by CMAL and Woodbury Cottage Grove with presentations from Lanya Ross and Paul Gardner. They are leaders with respect to the protection of the water supply in the metro area and the State of Minnesota.

March 19, 2022 - “Livable Communities” featured Tara Beard, Manager of Livable Communities Act and Housing Policy Metropolitan Council and Jennifer Faulkner, Community Director City of Burnsville

Special Report Social Justice Book Project – Emily Wacker

Our committee helped daycare centers and in-home providers to borrow a set of 6 books for up to three weeks each. The set comes in a “League of Women Voters” bag and includes curriculum ideas provided by the librarian in order to foster discussions regarding social justice and anti-racism in the classroom and at home. Specifically, the set of books focuses on facilitating conversations about similarities and differences, with an emphasis on skin color, kindness, confidence, and empathy.



OBSERVER PROGRAM REPORT– Laurie Lykken, Observer Chair

I think being an observer of government in action is an important function on LWV. On the state level, this means observing the state legislature in St. Paul. On the local level, it means attending city council and school board meetings. As observers, we simply record what happens in the meeting and share that by submitting our observation to the Voter editor--now Emily Wacker. Because our local League had gotten out of the habit of attending City Council and school board meetings for a number of reasons not the least of which was the pandemic, I thought reconstituting the local League observer corps would be a good idea. Emily has put sign-up sheets in Google Docs.

SPECIAL REPORT PESTICIDE USE IN ST. LOUIS PARK – Laurie Lykken

After my stint as Voter editor ended, I decided to do a study of pesticide use in SLP. Coupling that study's objective with an active observer corps made more visible with observers wearing the same, easily identifiable button to the meetings being observed seemed like a good way to prepare for eventually sharing the study with the city council in case the study was able to suggest actions the council might take. Anyway, in my mind, the two activities fit together. Though the study has been dropped, the observer corps continues.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Eilseen Knisely, Membership Chair

We have a total of 33 members:

Active Members - 25

Supporting Members - 7

Lifetime Member - 1 – Barbara Aslakson



League of Women Voters St. Louis Park			
LAST REVISED 03/31/22			
		Actual	Budget
INCOME		2021-2022	2021-2022
Dues (31)		\$ 1,905.00	\$ 2,810.00
Contributions			
Scholarship		\$ 405.00	\$ 300.00
Memorials		\$ 50.00	
Program		\$ 40.00	
Fundraiser - Gift Wrapping		\$ -	\$ 150.00
Chili Luncheon		\$ -	\$ 20.00
LWV MN - DEI Book Project		\$ 250.00	
LWV/MN - Voter Service Grant		\$ -	\$ 250.00
Annual Meeting Income		\$ -	\$ 300.00
Interest Income		\$ 345.00	
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 2,995.00	\$ 3,830.00
EXPENSES			
Assessments (PMP)			
LWVMN PMP		\$ 756.67	\$ 1,120.50
LWVUS PMP		\$ 1,280.00	\$ 1,328.00
Voter Newsletter		\$ -	-
Education			
Voter Service		\$ -	\$ 175.00
Candidate Forums		\$ 7.51	\$ 75.00
Kid's Vote		\$ -	-
Promotion @ Voter Registration		\$ -	\$ 50.00
DEI Book Project - SLP Library			
Bundle of 6 books (Friends of SLP Library		\$ 102.44	
Scholarship (Dollars for Scholars)		\$ 750.00	\$ 500.00
State Convention Scholarship		\$ -	\$ 200.00
Website			\$ 25.00
.ORG Domain Renewal (Deb Brinkman)			
Children First - Ice Cream Social		\$ -	\$ 25.00
Annual Meeting		\$ -	\$ 400.00
Awards		\$ -	\$ 75.00
Board Supplies			\$ 60.00
Zoom License - LWVMN		\$ 99.95	
Treasurer - ink pad		\$ 27.79	
Voter Service		\$ -	
Observer Program - buttons		\$ 27.79	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 3,052.15	\$ 4,033.50

LWV St. Louis Park Proposed Budgets FY 2022 - 2024

	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget
INCOME	2021-2022	2021-2022	2022 - 2023	2023-2024
Dues (31 members)	\$ 1,905.00	\$ 2,810.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,500.00
Contributions				
Scholarship	\$ 405.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Memorials	\$ 50.00			
Program	\$ 40.00			
Fundraiser - Gift Wrapping	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Chili Luncheon	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
LWV MN - DEI Book Project	\$ 250.00		-	-
LWV/MN - Voter Service Grant	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Annual Meeting Income	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
Interest Income	\$ 345.00	-		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 2,995.00	\$ 4,130.00	\$ 3,420.00	\$ 3,720.00
EXPENSES				
Assessments (PMP)				
LWVMN PMP	\$ 756.67	\$ 1,120.50	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,050.00
LWVUS PMP	\$ 1,280.00	\$ 1,328.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,550.00
CMAL	\$ -	-	-	-
Voter Newsletter	\$ -	-	-	-
Education				
Voter Service	\$ -	\$ 175.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 175.00
Candidate Forums	\$ 7.51	\$ 75.00	-	-
Kid's Vote	\$ -	-	-	-
Promotion @ Voter Registration	\$ -	\$ 50.00	-	-
DEI Book Project - SLP Library				
Bundle of 6 books	\$ 102.44		\$ 140.00	
Scholarship (Dollars for Scholars)	\$ 750.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
State Convention Scholarship	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	
Nat'l Conv't Scholarship	\$ -	-		\$ 300.00
Website		\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
.ORG Domain Renewal				
Children First - Ice Cream Social	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Annual Meeting	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
Awards	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Board Supplies		\$ 60.00	\$ 170.00	\$ 170.00
Zoom License - LWVMN	\$ 99.95			
Treasurer - ink pad	\$ 27.95			
Voter Service	\$ -			
Observer Program - buttons	\$ 27.79			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,052.31	\$ 4,033.50	\$ 4,310.00	\$ 4,570.00

Proposed
2022 Program (include blue text)
Proposed Program does not include Red text - notes from Lively Issues
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 who represent the diversity of our community at all levels of city government services. (1993) **keep**
- 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) **keep**

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.
- Opposition to recall by voters of members of the Legislature and state constitutional officers.
- Support of strict procedural limits on any process of initiative.

Action item: see if this is in our state program and if so we can remove it from our local program – not included in lwvmn or lwwvs

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)

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) (2019) **keep**

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, **but not limited to** 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) (2019) (2020)(2022)

Update: including but not limited to

NATURAL RESOURCES

Recycling

- Support the expansion of recycling of solid waste, organics, **composting**, including plastics. (1987) (2020) (2022)
- Support policies that promote and protect environmental quality. (1973) (1979). **Keep**
Update: check the state positions to see if composting is included – not included

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) **keep – propose update if there are members who are willing to work on this in**

Consider adding a position about housing and evictions - Propose this as a study at the annual meeting

Can evictions be included in our housing program this spring?

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). **keep**

Family Services

- Support a single point of entry services for coordinating family services. (1995) (2018)
- 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) - **update**
Propose a study or update at the annual meeting

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. **keep**

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.

**LWV St. Louis Park
BYLAWS
Amended 2022**

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters of St. Louis Park, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVSLP or as the League. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS, and of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, hereafter referred to as LWVMN.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of LWVSLP are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Policies.

- a. LWVSLP will not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
- b. LWVSLP is fully committed to ensure compliance – in principle and in practice – with LWVUS’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the League of Women Voters (LWV) will be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership.

- a. Voting members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join LWVSLP also will be voting members of LWVMN and LWVUS.
 1. Individuals who live within the area of a local LWV may join that LWV or any other local LWV.
 2. Individuals who reside outside the area of any local LWV may join a local LWV or become state members.
 3. Individuals who have been members of LWVUS for 50 years or more will be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.
 4. Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full or part time with an accredited institution.
- b. Associate (non-voting) members. All others who join LWVSLP or LWVMN will be associate members.

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.

Any proposed amendment of these Bylaws also requires the approval of the Board of League of Women Voters Minnesota.

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, 2012, 2014 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 LWVSLP will be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors.

Suggestions for policies may be made by any member of LWVSLP 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 LWVSLP 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 LWVSLP must deal with the public officials of all political persuasions the LWVSLP 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 LWVSLP Board must decide on an individual basis if a Board member's political participation does or does not compromise the LWVSLP non-partisan status.

- Any and all members of LWVSLP may lobby or advocate for local issues upon approval of the LWVSLP Board.
- LWVSLP membership lists or LWVSLP 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 LWVSLP president appoints a LWVSLP representative to serve with the group. The representative represents LWVSLP 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 LWVSLP 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

LWVSLP will donate time and talent but does not normally have funds to donate. LWVSLP 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 LWVSLP 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

LWVSLP 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 LWVSLP 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 POLICY

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.

LOCAL LEAGUE RELATIONS

LWVSLP 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

- LWVSLP 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.
- LWVSLP may take action on local positions with the approval of the Board.
- LWVSLP 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.
- LWVSLP 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 LWVSLP 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.

CANDIDATE FORUMS

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

- 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.
- LWVSLP 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 LWVSLP 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

2021 - 2022 Board Members

Officer / Director	Position	Term	Appointed by	Name
Officer	President	2021 - 2023	Nominating Committee	Deb Brinkman
Officer	Vice President	2019 - 2022	Nominating Committee	
Officer	Secretary	2021 - 2023	Nominating Committee	Judy Cook
Officer	Treasurer	2019 - 2022	Nominating Committee	Barb Person
Director / Portfolio	Nominating Committee	2021 - 2022	Nominating Committee	Eilseen Knisely
Director / Portfolio	Voter Service	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Eilseen Knisely
Director / Portfolio	Membership	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Eilseen Knisely
Director / Portfolio	Voter Editor	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Emily Wacker
Director / Portfolio	West Metro	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Barb Person
Director / Portfolio	CMAL	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Shelley Colvin
Director / Portfolio	Observer	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Laurie Lykken
Director / Portfolio	Communications	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Shelley Colvin
Director / Portfolio	Diversity Equity Inclusion	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Shelley Colvin

2022 - 2023 Board Member Nominations

Officer / Director	Position	Term	Appointed by	Name
Officer	President	2021 - 2023	Nominating Committee	Deb Brinkman
Officer	Vice President	2019- 2022	Nominating Committee	Laurie Lykken
Officer	Secretary	2021 - 2023	Nominating Committee	Judy Cook
Officer	Treasurer	2019 - 2022	Nominating Committee	Barb Person
Director / Portfolio	Nominating Committee	2021 - 2022	Nominating Committee	Eilseen Knisely
Director / Portfolio	Voter Service	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Betsy Williams, Louise Winter
Director / Portfolio	Membership	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Eilseen Knisely
Director / Portfolio	Voter Editor	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Emily Wacker
Director / Portfolio	West Metro	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Barb Person
Director / Portfolio	CMAL	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Shelley Colvin
Director / Portfolio	Observer	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Laurie Lykken
Director / Portfolio	Communications	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Shelley Colvin
Director / Portfolio	Diversity Equity Inclusion	2021 - 2022	Board of Directors	Shelley Colvin

New Business

New Programs to consider

Topics 2022 – 2023

Please complete the voting sheet for topics for the 2021 - 2022 Program. This information will be used for August 2022 – 2023 program planning.

Adjourn