



# Voter

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## April Calendar

- April 2, 2013 – 7 pm**  
 LWV SLP Board Meeting  
 Location: Deb Brinkman’s Home
- April 20, 2013 – 9:30 am – 1 pm**  
 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
 Topic: Art In The Park  
 Location: McCoy’s Public House

### Upcoming Events

- May 2, 2013 – 7 pm - New Date**  
 LWV SLP Board Meeting  
 Location: Dorothy’s Home
- May 8, 2013 – 12:30 pm**  
 Unit 2 Meeting  
 Topic: TBD  
 Location: Parkshore Card Room
- May 11, 2013 – TBD**  
 CMAL Annual Meeting  
 Topic: TBD  
 Location: TBD
- May 17, 18, 19, 2013**  
 LWV Minnesota Convention  
 Topic: Engaging the Voter:  
 Past Present & Future  
 Location: Schwann Center, Blaine
- May 23 – 7 pm –date/time to be confirmed**  
 Unit 3 Meeting  
 Topic: Tour New Fire Stations  
 Location: City Hall
- June 15, 2013 – TBD**  
 Parktacluar  
 Topic: TBD  
 Location: TBD
- July 27, 2013 6:30 – 9:30**  
 Picnic and concert in the Park  
 Wolfe Park
- August 8, 2013 6 pm**  
 Planning Meeting  
 Dinner & Planning Meeting  
 Bring a dish to share  
 Deb Brinkman’s



### 2013 / 2014 Membership Dues

Annual League of Women Voters Statements have been mailed to each current LWV St. Louis Park member. This membership entitles members to participate in Local, Regional, State, and National activities.

*New this year is an option to contribute to our LWV St. Louis Park Scholarship Fund.*

*Please consider supporting the scholarship fund when you pay your annual dues.*

*To maintain your member, please pay before the annual meeting on April 20.*

## President's Message

It's hard to believe it's time for our annual meeting already! Although it doesn't look like spring outside, the annual meeting is a sure sign that green grass and flowers are just around the corner. I look forward to seeing you at our meeting, which will be April 20 at McCoy's Public House at Excelsior and Grand. They have a private room so we should be able to conduct our business and learn about the St. Louis Park Friends of the Arts organization. You should have received an invitation by now (if not, give me a call). Please return your choice of lunch to Barb Person. And feel free to bring a friend!

The March meeting presentation on Missing and Exploited Children highlighted some sobering information about vulnerable children in Minnesota. Thanks to Mary Santi of LWV Minnesota for attending our Unit meetings to discuss the work of the study group and the contents of the briefing paper. There will be more discussion about what can be done to reduce the numbers and impact on these children. In the meantime, hug the children in your life.

Elections continue to be in the news and a hot topic of discussion at the legislature this session. At this point, it is hard to know what the result will be, but the Governor's expectation that any legislation he would support needs to have bi-partisan approval means changes will need broad collaboration. Please let your legislator know of your preferences and ideas.

Thanks to Dorothy Karlson, Debbie Blake, and Barb Person who will serve on the selection committee for our scholarship student in April. The announcement of the winner will be at the "Dollars for Scholars" event in May. The scholarship fund is the product of the vision and hard work of Deb Brinkman who helped establish this ongoing event last year. Thanks to those of you who contributed time or money to this important community service.

I want to close this note that is my last as your President with thanks to each of you. I have been so proud to lead this organization of dedicated, creative and wise members who selflessly give of themselves to better our community. I look forward to serving you in a new capacity and to an exciting year ahead.

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

### Highlights from the March 2013 LWV SLP Board Meeting

- Kathleen Doran-Norton discussion moved to the April meeting
- We prepared for the April unit meeting on the Missing and Exploited Children briefing paper
- The West Metro meeting will be in April, more details will be published
- The annual meeting location is confirmed for McCoy's Public House
- Eilseen will start making arrangements for a tour of the new Fire Station
- The Unit 3 meeting will be rescheduled because it conflicts with the state convention
- Carlota is starting to research Parktacular details
- We reviewed a scorecard to assist with the scholarship selection
- Kathie Welch described the LOTT program and asked us to consider participating



## Worth Noting

### Important Links

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

League of Women Voters Minnesota

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

League of Women Voters United States

<http://www.lwvslp.org>

League of Women Voters St. Louis Park

### Children First Asset #7 Community Values Youth

Did you know 28% of St. Louis Park young people perceive that adults in the community value them? Teens say this starts as simply as greeting young people as you pass them on the street, just as you would an older person or a young child. Surprise a unique looking young person by looking them in the eye and saying 'Hello' or holding the door open for them.

**Attend the Champion's Breakfast** on April 24; Email [Atkinson.karen@slpschools.org](mailto:Atkinson.karen@slpschools.org). It is a fundraiser for Children First. Details on page 7.

### Ice Cream Social

May 19 2pm -5 pm Wolfe Park

### Become an Asset Champion -- Free Training

Thursday April 18 6:30 – 9 pm SLP High School or  
Wednesday May 22 2 – 4:30 pm SLP Library

There is no charge for the training. Email [Atkinson.karen@slpschools.org](mailto:Atkinson.karen@slpschools.org) to reserve your place.

### Why I Joined the League of Women Voters

Dorothy Karlson

When I retired from teaching 20 years ago, I decided to join one women's organization that had a worthwhile purpose. My daughter's mother-in-law invited me to a League meeting and I knew immediately that I had found just such a group. I have been enriched by my association with intelligent and dedicated women, and I have learned to appreciate the work being done in our community by participation in League studies. I made a good decision 20 years ago!

*Editor's Note:*

**Why did you join the League?** Send in a paragraph to me, [deb.brinkman@gmail.com](mailto:deb.brinkman@gmail.com). I'll publish a story a month. It will be great information for the profile of our League members.

### West Metro

#### Voting Measures Reform

Saturday, April 6, 2013

9:00 a.m. – Refreshments;

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. - Program

St. Louis Park City Hall, Council Chambers,  
3rd Floor

5005 Minnetonka Boulevard, St. Louis Park

Our speaker: Claire Wilson, Voter Outreach Director, Minnesota Secretary of State's Office. In her role with the office, Claire travels statewide encouraging participation in the electoral process and educating eligible voters about election law. She presents workshops on voting to schools, community groups and partners with non-profits to keep communities current on Minnesota's leading elections system.

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

The public is invited.  
Refreshments will be served.

*More information on page 7*

### Environmental Concern

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas produced by the breakdown of radium, an element commonly found in rock and soil. Outdoors, radon gas is not a health hazard; indoors, it can become a problem when it accumulates to high levels. Initial testing for elevated radon gas levels should be done with an alpha track detector available from many hardware, drug and discount stores.

St. Louis Park residents may buy radon detection kits for \$5 at city hall (Inspections Department) between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, call the Minnesota Department of Health at (651) 215-0909 or the City of St. Louis Park at (952) 924-2589.

## **LWV St. Louis Park Annual Meeting**

**The St. Louis Park League Of Women Voters**

Invites you to our 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

*April 20, 2013*

*McCoy's Public House*

**3801 Grand Way**

**St. Louis Park**

*Speaker: Susan Schneck*

*SLP Friends of the Arts*

**Coffee 9:30 am**

**Business meeting 10:00 am**

**Speaker 11:15 am**

## LWV Minnesota Annual Meeting

### Engaging the Voter: Past, Present & Future May 18-19, 2013



**Schwann Center  
1700 – 105th Ave NE  
Blaine, MN 55449**

For information regarding convention,  
please email [info@lwvmn.org](mailto:info@lwvmn.org) with the  
Subject Line: Convention.

### Agenda

[\*\*First Call for Convention \(Word\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Call for Nominations \(Word\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Nominations Form \(Word\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Program Planning Packet \(pdf\)\*\*](#)

[Program Planning Packet - January Update \(pdf\)](#)

[Program Planning Survey \(link\)](#)

[\*\*Bylaws Change Form \(Word\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*2013 Hope Washburn Award Nomination Form \(Word\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*2013 Peggy Thompson Award Nomination Form \(Word\)\*\*](#)

#### **Making Democracy Work Awards**

LWVMN encourages local Leagues to recognize an outstanding non-member who through their public involvement demonstrates a commitment to "Making Democracy Work". LWV MN will also recognize LL winners and select one or more to present at the 2013 Convention in May, 2013.

LLs will develop their own criteria and manner of recognition.

[\*\*Making Democracy Work Award: Work Plan and Nomination Form \(Word\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Making Democracy Work Award: Talking Points \(Word\)\*\*](#)

For more information on the Making Democracy Work Awards,  
contact [Florence Hedeem](#).

[Convention Volunteer Position Descriptions](#)

If you are interested in volunteering at Convention,  
please contact Karen Langsjoen at [karenl@cloudnet.com](mailto:karenl@cloudnet.com).

# Metro Blast

## Senate District 66 Town Hall Meeting

District 66 Town Hall Meeting: Rep. Alice Hausman (66A) and Sen. John Marty (66) will host a joint town meeting on Saturday, April 6 from 1-2:30 p.m. at Falcon Heights City Hall (2077 Larpenteur Ave. W. ) to discuss issues being addressed this legislative session. (If you live in house district 66B, a joint meeting with Representative Lesch and Senator Marty is being planned for the near future.)

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## Earth Day Update on Frac Sand Mining in MN

The Bloomington League of Women Voters will mark Earth Day on Tuesday, April 9, with a program on frac sand mining at Northwestern Health Sciences University, 2501 W. 84th St., Bloomington MN.

The public is welcome for refreshments at 6:30 p.m., followed by the 7 p.m. presentation.

Joe Kruse, a native of Wisconsin's frac sand region, will describe the relationship between fracking for oil and mining of the sand necessary to the process. In particular, he will focus on the effects of frac sand mining in southeastern Minnesota, and cover some of the environmental effects, which are not yet fully understood.

Kruse will discuss the arguments for frac sand mining and explain the opposing arguments. He is involved with Minnesota's frac sand organizing effort and will update the issue's status at the Legislature.

LWV supports protection of natural resources and careful assessment of the impact of frac sand mining on our communities and the environment. The views expressed by Kruse are his own. Audience discussion will follow the presentation.

For more information, contact Lois Norrgard, 952-881-7282

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## Minnesota's Health Insurance Exchanges

### LWV Saint Paul meeting April 17 - 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Speaker: April Todd-Malmlov, Exchange Executive Director. MN Dept. of Commerce.

Location: Kings Crossing Senior Residence, 500 North Dale St (at University Ave)

The parking lot is located behind the building. Enter building from the parking lot entrance.

The meeting will be taped by St. Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN) for later broadcast.

Metro Blast, continued ....

### **Register New Citizens to Vote**

Please check the schedule below for the ceremonies in the Twin Cities Area and let me know if you can help. Thank you. Judy Stuthman, jastuthman@aol.com

April 8th, Monday 9 AM for 10 AM ceremony  
 St. Thomas Law School  
 1000 Lasalle Avenue, Minneapolis 55403  
 May 24th, Friday 10 AM & 2 PM for 11 AM & 2 PM ceremonies  
 U of MN Law School, Minneapolis

### **Voting Measures Reform**

Saturday, April 6, 2013  
 9:00 a.m. – Refreshments; 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. - Program  
 St. Louis Park City Hall, Council Chambers, 3rd Floor  
 5005 Minnetonka Boulevard, St. Louis Park

LWV Minnesota's priorities for the 2013 session are protecting and improving voting rights and Minnesota's election system.

#### **To modernize access to the ballot box, we support:**

- **Early voting: Allows voters to cast their ballot in the days before Election Day and reduces congestion on Election Day.**
- **Online voter registration: Makes it easier for many citizens to register and saves counties money for processing registrations.**

Our speaker: Claire Wilson, Voter Outreach Director, Minnesota Secretary of State's Office  
 In her role with the office, Claire travels statewide encouraging participation in the electoral process and educating eligible voters about election law. She presents workshops on voting to schools, community groups and partners with non-profits to keep communities current on Minnesota's leading elections system.

You are encouraged to attend this informative meeting on a very important topic. The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

#### ***Sponsored by the LWV West Metro Alliance:***

***Brooklyn Park/Osseo/Maple Grove, Crystal/New Hope/E. Plymouth, Golden Valley, Minnetonka/Eden Prairie/Hopkins, St. Louis Park, South Tonka and Wayzata/Plymouth.***

### **Former State Senator, Ember Reichgott Junge to Lead Book Discussion**

Thursday, April 18, 7:00 pm  
 New Hope City Hall -4401 Xylon Avenue North, New Hope  
 The public is invited to discuss the book Zero Chance of Passage:  
**The Pioneering Charter School Story.**

Discussion will be led by the book's author, former state senator Ember Reichgott Junge, current board vice-chair of Charter Schools Development Corporation.

As a Minnesota state senator, Ember Reichgott Junge authored the nation's first chartered school law. In Zero Chance of Passage, Junge describes the law's passage and credits its success to the initiative's inception by visionary citizens outside the political system and its bipartisan support from the political center.

***The event is hosted by the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth.  
 Contact: Lois Wendt 952-233-8923 or lkwhak@hotmail.com***

# Champions Breakfast Children First Fundraiser



Wednesday, April 24, 2013  
Doubletree Park Place Hotel  
Free to attend.

7:00 a.m. Registration  
7:15 a.m. Program & Light  
Breakfast  
8:15 a.m. Adjourn

Celebrate what our community is doing to champion youth through Children First. This year's event features the wisdom of the current and past youth co-chairs of Children First. You won't want to miss this opportunity to connect with others from St. Louis Park. This is a fundraising breakfast and you will be asked to consider making a contribution.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Champions Breakfast Registration** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional:** If there is a table captain you would like to sit with, include her/his name

\_\_\_\_\_

**How to register:**

- **Email** information from form above to: [atkinson.karen@slpschools.org](mailto:atkinson.karen@slpschools.org)
- **Fax** completed form to: 952-928-6020
- **Mail** completed form to: Children First | 6425 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street | St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Questions? Contact Karen Atkinson, 952-928-6075 or use the email address above.



## LWV Minnesota

### [Capitol Letter™](#) and recent LWV Testimony

Our volunteer lobbyists and staff have been busy keeping up with pending bills at the Capitol. In this issue: Elections, State Government Finance, Education, Environment, Equal Rights (Marriage Equality), Firearms, Health Care, Immigration, Judiciary and Metropolitan Issues.

You can read LWV's recent testimony regarding Judicial Selection, Early Voting, and Vouching on our [blog](#).

#### **NEW:** [Election Legislative Update](#) Webpage

We've launched a new webpage which will feature frequent updates about what is happening at the Minnesota State Capitol with respect to election bills.

We're looking for summer interns!

LWV Minnesota is pleased to offer an internship program to introduce students to advocacy, membership, development and communications in a fast-paced nonprofit organization. Click for [program details](#). Applications for our summer program are *due April 12*.

### ***Speakers Available to Address local LWVs about Restructuring Questions and concerns***

Among the many items to be considered at Convention is a proposal to adopt a new tax-exempt structure for LWV Minnesota. This proposal was first introduced at Council in May, 2012 and has been outlined in recent issues of The Voter. The proposal represents the work of our restructuring committee, along with our legal counsel, and will update our structure to bring us more in-line with current rulings on tax-exempt organizations and advocacy work. The Board believes that this streamlining will be a major step towards making our organization more sustainable.

But we know there are many questions remaining among LWV members. If you haven't already, please review the information on the [Member Resources](#) website about restructuring. The proposal will also be discussed in Convention, beginning with a caucus the evening of Friday, May 17 (details to be posted when confirmed).

We are also happy to come to your League and speak. If you would like to arrange a speaker from the State Office to talk about this proposal, please contact us at 651-224-5445 or [info@lwvmn.org](mailto:info@lwvmn.org).



## LWV United States

Many of the important issues being argued and debated in Washington involve the issue of federalism. What is the proper role of the Federal and state governments with regard to immigration, health care, marriage and voting rights? As Congress and the Supreme Court consider these questions, state legislatures are meeting and passing laws that impact these issues and more. In the League, it is state convention season and a good time to remember that we are a federated organization [taking action](#) at the local, state and national level.

Like national convention, state conventions offer League members the opportunity to come together to debate and plan for the future. As in years past, the [National Board members](#) will attend as many conventions as possible with the message that we are all in this together as one organization determined to make democracy work. It is easy to see that when we stand on the steps of the Supreme Court and demand protection of our voting rights, that we do so with the weight of the entire organization behind us. It is important to remember that that same weight is behind state efforts to protect voting rights, the environment or any of the myriad of interests that we represent and that the same is true every time a local League stands up for citizens of a community. On the flip side, every League and every League member benefits from the actions we take. No matter what level of support we give, from simply paying dues to taking leadership roles, we are all better citizens because we belong to the League.

State conventions are a wonderful chance to share, support and welcome each other. There is always something new to learn and something new to teach, no matter how many conventions we might have attended. Let us all commit to attending our state's gathering this year. With so much at stake, we need each other, now more than ever.

In League,

Elisabeth McNamara

LWV United States, continued ...

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**EDUCATION FUND****ELECTIONS*****Information Request: 2013 Election Dates (NEW)***

Does your community have an election scheduled for 2013? LWVEF would like to provide this information on VOTE411 to help inform voters of any upcoming elections in their area! Please send the following information to Megan Brown ([mbrown@lww.org](mailto:mbrown@lww.org)): election date, location (city, town, county name, etc.) and type of election (School Board, City Council, etc.).

**State Legislature's Mid-Term Update on Election Legislation (NEW)**

For many state Legislatures March marks the half-way point of their legislative session, some are already adjourned and some seem to never end. Regardless of the length of their sessions each state has focused a great deal of their energy on voting rights and elections - [2230 bills relating to elections](#) have been introduced in state legislatures across the country since January. That equals approximately 26 bills per day or more than 1 new piece of election legislation per hour. [Read more here.](#)

**Get Ready for National Voter Registration Day 2013! (NEW)**

Once again, the League signed on as an official partner for National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) 2013. [This was a wildly successful event](#) for 200+ Leagues in 2012. This year the day will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2013. Together we can make a big splash and draw attention to the importance of registering and voting **each and every year!**

Leagues that participated in last year's NVRD will soon receive a quick survey asking about your experience and assessing your interest in participating again this year; please fill-out the survey to ensure you receive all the latest updates and resources from the NVRD organizers. All Leagues: stay tuned for more information and opportunities to sign up in the coming months.

LWV United States, continued ...

**GLOBAL DEMOCRACY****2012 G8 Broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA) Initiative Closes in London (NEW)**

The League team traveled to London for meetings with the 2013 G8 president, the United Kingdom, which will partner with the Arab Republic of Egypt to organize the 2013 BMENA Initiative. With a colleague from the U.S. Department of State, [the League team shared lessons](#) learned with staff from the U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office and three potential NGO partners.

Once home, the League Team published [2012 BMENA Initiative 9th Forum for the Future](#) - a chronicle of the process in English, French and Arabic. This piece was distributed to all 450 members of civil society and the private sector that participated, and to government representatives and other supporters of the 2012 BMENA Initiative.

**MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP****The Young People Task Force: Meet Co-Chair Amy Hjerstedt (NEW)**

The LWVUS [Young People Task Force \(YPTF\)](#) is currently hard at work researching ways to attract young people to the League and creating a toolkit to roll out at [National Council 2013](#). Meet [Amy Hjerstedt](#), co-chair of the YPTF and at-Large member of the LWV of Michigan. Amy is a mother of two, volunteers at her local parks and recreation department and a parents' advocacy group. She is just one of a growing community of young League members. Cheers to Amy and the entire YPTF for their great work!

**Resources for the Nominating Committee (NEW)**

[The Little Green Book](#) is *the* resource for your Nominating Committee! Check it out for ideas to find new leaders, FAQs, job descriptions, work plan, succession planning, templates, and more. Already found your Board for 2013? Great! Consider starting to identify potential leaders in your League NOW and begin engaging them in small leadership tasks. This will make it easier to find leaders ready and willing to fill your Board next year.

**Promote Your Earth Day Activities on AmericanTowns.com**

The League's work to protect air and water quality means a lot to citizens in our communities, and Earth Day offers a chance to highlight that great work. Our partner [AmericanTowns.com](#) is offering citizens a chance to learn about activities and volunteer opportunities for Earth Day in their communities! Complete this [short survey](#) by April 8th to include your League in AmericanTowns.com's Earth Day promotion!

LWV United States, continued ...

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## OTHER

### ***Share Your Studies - Share Our Strength at the LWV Clearinghouse!***

Visit the [LWV Clearinghouse](#) today to find League studies on more than fifty subject areas. The Clearinghouse was created in response to member requests to provide a central location for League studies at all levels. Leagues in California, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington have responded with numerous studies, and the latest addition, from Michigan, concerns immigration.

**To find a study:** browse by topic using the list on the left of the page or the search box at the top of the page.

**To share a study:** follow the instructions on the site.

The Clearinghouse was designed, built, and tested by League members and is staffed by League volunteers from across

## Public Health Week April 1 - 7

### Minnesota to celebrate Public Health Week April 1-7 Daily observances include April 2 State of Public Health Forum in West St. Paul

Governor Mark Dayton has declared April 1-7 to be Public Health Week, and to mark the occasion the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will gather public health partners for a forum on the state of public health in Minnesota.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, April 2, at the Dakota Lodge in West St. Paul. Minnesota Commissioner of Health Dr. Ed Ehlinger will open with a presentation on the rapidly evolving landscape of health policy and the need for new policies and partnerships that more effectively address chronic disease, health disparities and affordable access. His presentation will be followed by a panel discussion on the importance of strong partnerships for public health. Moderated by John Finnegan, dean of the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health, panelists will include representatives from local public health, health care and volunteer and nonprofit sectors.

Minnesota's designation of April 1-7 as Public Health Week corresponds with National Public Health Week, a nationwide opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of public health and to build awareness about the contributions of public health to individual wellness, community well-being and our quality of life. In addition to the Tuesday forum, MDH will focus on daily themes as follows:

**Monday, April 1** - Healthy Infrastructure: Public health emergencies come in many forms, from breakdowns in pharmaceutical or food safety to natural disasters, environmental contaminants, bioterrorism and novel diseases. Responding effectively to these crises requires a healthy and prepared public health infrastructure a trained workforce of epidemiologists and other scientists, laboratory capacity and capability, robust disease monitoring systems, investigation of exposures; and responsive regulatory functions as needed. The importance of our public health infrastructure will be highlighted with a special video, Just Another Day..., with a story on the fungal meningitis outbreak of 2012, both available on the MDH website at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/topics/nphw/index.html> .

**Tuesday, April 2** - Healthy Partnerships: State of Public Health Forum at Dakota Lodge in West St. Paul, 10 a.m.-noon. Participants will include:  
Gretchen Musicant, chair of the Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (LPHA) and health commissioner for the city of Minneapolis  
Allie Freidrichs, director of Meeker-McLeod-Sibley Community Health Services  
Shannon Lotthammer, director of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division  
Mark Lappe, emergency manager, Hennepin County Medical Center  
Lillian McDonald, executive director, ECHO Minnesota

Public Health Week, continued ....

**Wednesday, April 3** - Healthy Communities: Commissioner Ehlinger will visit the Minnesota State Academies to see their Worksite Wellness and Farm to School initiatives, then travel to the Faribault Lutheran School to engage with staff and students in Active School Day and healthy eating activities. MDH's Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) worked with these community partners to encourage wellness activities. The Commissioner will then participate in a reception at Rice County Public Health for community partners, county commissioners, and local public health staff, to learn more about local public health and SHIP in Rice County.

**Thursday, April 4** - Healthy Homes: Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in America. Every home should be tested for this radioactive gas and homes with high levels should be fixed. MDH will urge people to test for radon before they sell - or buy - a home. Twitter followers will get several Tweets related to indoor air and a Facebook entry will direct people to the MDH YouTube Channel, where people can watch a video on radon testing, as well as other MDH videos. Having a healthy home leads to healthier people.

**Friday, April 5** - Healthy Futures: Current and future activities of the Minnesota Department of Health will be most effective and efficient with a well-trained and energized workforce. Commissioner Ehlinger and other staff will focus Friday on thanking the talented and hard-working staff of MDH for their many contributions to public health.

More on National Public Health Week can be found online at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/topics/nphw/index.html> .

-MDH-

For more information, contact:

Michael Schommer  
MDH Communications  
651-201-4998

## Missing and Exploited Briefing Paper Submitted by Deb Brinkman

Every day newspapers publish stories on topics of missing or sexually exploited children. Mary Santi, LWV Minnesota, lead our discussion at the March Unit 3 meeting.

The topic was requested two years ago at the state convention. The topic continues to gain momentum as data, or lack of data, is reviewed. The briefing paper is still in draft status.

Mary noted that 'runaways' and 'throwaways' are most at risk. They may be rebellious, they may have had bad parenting, but attitudes are changing. While these children used to be considered problems, they are now considered victims. This status gives children increased protection and rights.

Most offenders are male. They may work alone or part of a group. They are able to get away with their crime by using secrecy. Neighborhood families do not often compare notes. They find their victims in parks, sports, at the malls, or on the internet.

Additional data is needed and training materials are very old. Additional funding is needed.

In 1999 – 2005 Champlain had a grant for the project "GAP" designed to divert runaways. It was successful, but funding ran out. Some of the funding was for police to learn how to interview these kids.

### **There have been several improvements.**

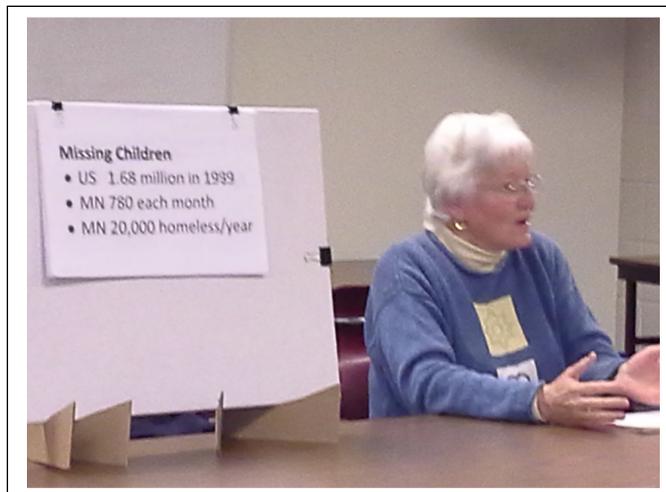
Recent changes have been primarily driven by high profile events.

Abuse has gone down 49% from 1990 to 2004.

Patty Wetterland is instrumental in pushing for changes

- Sex offender online
- Amber Alert
- Community Communication

- 2011 Save Harbor Act
- 2012 Jacobs Law gives all victims social services
- CyberTipline established in 1998 to report tips for abuse has received 1.3 million reports



Additional Reading:

- [No Easy Answers - Sex Offender Laws in the US](#)
- [Civil Commitment of Sex Offenders March 2011 Office of the Legislative Auditor State of Minnesota](#)
- [Human Trafficking of Children in the United States – A Fact Sheet for our Schools](#)
- [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)

**CMAL**  
**Submitted by Debbie Blake**

## Resilient Communities

The Minnetonka Resilient Communities Project, a cooperative effort with the University of Minnesota, was the subject of the March 16 quarterly meeting of the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL). This ground-breaking pilot partnership involved Minnetonka government bodies, community organizations, business groups, and county, metropolitan, state and federal governments. The community projects identified by these stakeholders were addressed by University faculty and students, working with the local government and citizens.

The Resilient Communities Project (RCP) is a new multi-disciplinary initiative that connects the University with communities to advance sustainability and resilience. It is supported by the Institute on the Environment and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, and is an initiative of the Sustainable Faculty Network at the U. In Minnetonka, the community identified 13 projects, and students and faculty from 22 courses representing 8 University colleges participated. Over 300 students aided Minnetonka, and also got class credit for their projects.

The Minnetonka projects included a number of issues of interest to most communities:

- Housing and density options, including development of affordable, rental and senior housing, and design as part of the solution
- Transportation demand management
- Revitalizing an aging shopping center (Ridgedale)
- Planning for reuse of a vacated K-Mart
- Planning for aging people and aging amenities
- Studies of development options for two new LRT stations

Speakers at the program included Julie Wischnack, City of Minnetonka Development Director, Dr. Clarissa Schively Slotterback, Director of the Resilient Communities Project, and Kristina Nesse, student in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

The Minnetonka partnership was the first for this new program, which will work with one community each year. For the 2013-14 school year, seven communities submitted proposals, and the city of North St. Paul was chosen. More information on RCP and its current and future projects can be found at <http://rcp.umn.edu/>.

Julia Wallace

## Nominating Committee Report 2013 Submitted By The Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Year Term Ends</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
PRESIDENT	DEB BRINKMAN	E15	
VICE PRESIDENT	JUDITH COOK	E14	MEMBERSHIP
SECRETARY	ROSEMARY RUFFENACH	E15	
DIRECTOR	DEBBIE BLAKE	E15	CMAL
DIRECTOR	AGGIE LEITHEISER	E15	VOTER EDITOR
NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR	BARBARA DOWNEY	E14	
NOMINATING SEAT 1	JULIA ROSS	E14	
NOMINATING SEAT 2	SUSAN SANGER	E14	

Submitted by the 2013 Nominating Committee  
Barbara Aslakson, Chair  
Julia Ross  
Barbara Downey  
Judith Cook

## Observer Reports

Observer Coordinator: Dorothy Karlson 952-935-4051

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

### **CITY COUNCIL MEETING, Aggie Leitheiser, Observer March 4**

Attendance: All present

1. Made Appointments to Boards and Commissions
2. Reviewed proposal for 2.3 miles of streets to be repaved; curb and gutter work; replace some water mains. Most service lines are more than 60 years old. Residents will be offered the opportunity to have their connections replaced which will be less than doing it as a separate project. Total project cost is about 1.7 million. Approved.

#### 3. Preliminary and Final Plat – Fretham 14th Addition

Discussion of how to manage the Council's interest in sidewalk development while continuing to approve variances for not building sidewalks. Maybe set up a fee that could be used in the future as things change. Approved

#### 4. Approved time extension for Xcel Franchise Ordinance.

5. Approved First Reading of Background Checks Ordinance Amendment with comment that doing background checks through the police department saves money over contracting this out to an outside group.

State of the City address is March 21 8:30 Fire Station #1

Adjourned at 8:05 pm

### **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Aggie Leitheiser, Observer March 18, 2013**

Attendance: All Present

1. Approved On-Sale Wine and 3.2% Malt Liquor License to Azeka, Inc.; dba Brush Studio in the West End. The restaurant will serve wine and beer in West End as a combination restaurant and art studio. Adult classes in evenings, children/family on weekends, corporate team building during the daytime.

2. Approved First Reading to amend zoning map from R-2 Single Family Residence District to R-4 Multiple Family Residence District for Eliot Park Apartments Rezoning, Preliminary Plat, Preliminary Planned Unit. 138 apartments, underground parking and surface parking. Discussion: impact on school district; concerns about increased traffic; concerns about design and density level. Motion passed with Sanger and Hallfin opposed.

Observer Reports, continued ...

3. Approved First Reading of Ordinance allowing students to live on site and to signage, and to set the second reading for April 1, 2013. The goal is to have the changes to the Yeshiva school for the 2013-14 school year.

Discussion of student parking; name (located in St. Louis Park but will be known as Yeshiva Minneapolis to attract out-of-state students); no more than 50 students will live on site.

4. Adopted Resolution approving lawful gambling by Armstrong Cooper Youth Hockey Association at Toby Keith's Bar & Grill. 3% or \$3,000 whichever is less comes to the city.

5. Approved first reading of the rezoning from C-2, General Commercial to O, Office for the property at 3700 State Highway 100 consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. (Burlington Coat Company and Microsoft)

6. Approved First Reading of an Ordinance Establishing an Environment and Sustainability Commission: Sustainable SLP, and to set second reading for April 1, 2013.

7. State of the City address on Thursday March 21 at First Station #1.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
Making Democracy Work®

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED