



Voter

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November Calendar

December 3, 2013 6 pm

* Phonathon Fundraiser Eilseen’s home

December 5, 2013 7 pm

* LWV SLP Board Meeting at Aggie’s home

December 11, 2013 – 12:30 pm

* Unit 2 Meeting

Topic: “Creating Vital Aging Communities”

Author Dr. Bob Ramsey

Location: ParkShore Senior Center Card Room

December 15 and 19, 2013

Gift-wrapping at Barnes and Noble

Contact Dorothy Karlson if interested

December 19, 2013 – 7 pm

* Unit 3 Meeting

Topic: “Water quantity and quality – St. Louis Park and the Metro area”

Location: St. Louis Park City Hall

Upcoming Events

January 2, 2014 7 pm

* LWV SLP Board Meeting at Judy’s home

January 9, 2014 – 12:30 pm

* Unit 2 Meeting

Topic Lively Issues – LWV position review

Location: ParkShore Senior Center Card Room

January 16, 2014 – 7 pm

* Unit 3 Meeting

Topic Lively Issues – LWV position review

Location: Deb’s Home

(Call 952-920-0082 for directions)

CMAL Date and Topic To be determined



The modern **Thanksgiving** holiday tradition is traced to a celebration in 1621 at Plymouth, Massachusetts to give thanks for a good harvest. It became a regular affair in New England in the late 1660s.

Both state and church leaders proclaimed Thanksgiving Day celebrations until after the American Revolution. As President, George Washington proclaimed the first nation-wide thanksgiving celebration on November 26, 1789.

On December 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a joint resolution of Congress changing the national Thanksgiving Day from the last Thursday in November to the fourth Thursday to allow more time for shopping.

President's Message December 2013

I hope you were able to attend Beth Fraser's presentation on Protecting Voting Rights. Beth shared a lot of good information. Because I work with technology, I am especially appreciative of all the online tools coming out of the Secretary of State's Office. We met in the St. Louis Park City Hall Council Chambers, so Reg was able to record the presentation for Civic Channel 17. The inspiration for this presentation was a State of Democracy Grant that we were awarded.

We've found December to be a good fund raising month. These fundraisers will help fund our scholarship and fund our operational costs, which will keep our dues low. Our phonathon is scheduled for December 3. I have to admit, calling people on the phone and talking to people we can't see is becoming a lost art. Please consider joining us at Eilseen's home. Our Barnes and Noble gift-wrapping time slots are all filled with volunteers. Feel free to donate bows, ribbon ... or do some shopping so we can wrap your gifts!

Our December meeting topics have changed a bit from our original plan to accommodate schedules. Thanks to everyone for his or her flexibility.

Our board is also going through some change, largely due to availability and work related demands: Rosemary has stepped down as Secretary and Carlota is stepping down as Voter Service, but will still be helping out where she can. While we recognize that life needs to go on outside of the League, we are grateful to the important contributions these women made.

Judy is helping us put together an ad looking for board members, it would be fun to get a fresh perspective from new individuals. If you know of anyone who would be willing to share some passion, please send her our way!

With many holidays around the corner, please take a moment to be thankful for all the ways the League has touched your life.

Deb Brinkman, President

LWV SLP

Highlights from the November 2013 LWV SLP Board Meeting:

- * Made final plans for the November Protecting Voting Rights unit meetings.
- * Discussed changes to the December unit meeting topics and suggested Bob Ramsey to talk about his book, or Aggie have another contact to talk on Aquifers.
- * Made additional arrangements for our fund raising events - Barnes and Nobel Gift wrapping and the phonathon.
- * We sent some additional information to the St. Louis Park Historical Society - Barb and Dorothy wrote up what they did for the new Resident Handbook.
- * We took a moment to review the Ad in the St. Louis Park Magazine. The article was a little shorter than we imagined, but overall it was a wonderful opportunity.
- * Barb provided shared some information from the state and on the Fall meeting.
- * Judy has an updated Roster. Please contact her directly if you would like a copy.
- * Other local leagues are partnering with local organizations to increase program attendance. Aggie has started a list of St. Louis Park organizations that may consider partnering with us.
- * Looking ahead, we want to do a Letter to the Editor supporting online voting, we need to figure out how to get information to residents in apartment buildings, and we want to know what our league needs to do to become a C-3.



Worth Noting

November 5 City and School Elections Results

St. Louis Park City Council: (4-year terms)

- Councilmember Ward No. 1
 - Sue Sanger
- Councilmember Ward No. 2
 - Anne Mavity
- Councilmember Ward No. 3
 - Gregg Lindberg
- Councilmember Ward No. 4
 - Tim Brausen

St. Louis Park School Board:

4-year terms

Bruce Richardson
 Karen Waters
 Jim Yarosh

Two-year term

Ken Morrison

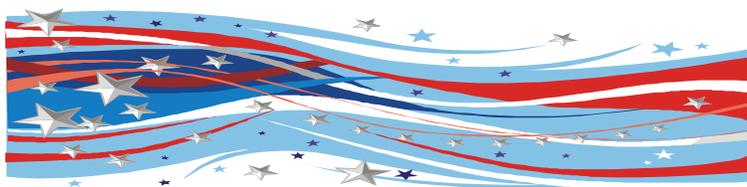
School Bond Issues

Question 1: Capital Project Levy (Technology Levy) **Passed**

Question 2: Bond Referendum (Bond for Buildings) **Passed**

Question 3: Referendum Revenue Authorization (Levy for Learning) **Passed**

**Thanks to everyone who Voted!
 You are a local Hero.**



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

Why I joined the League of Women Voters:

My neighbor, Marilyn Hoeft, invited me to attend one of the LWV SLP meetings. We moved to St. Louis Park in 1978 when our son was two years old. I was lucky that I was able to stay home with him. But a year or so later, Marilyn thought I needed to expand my horizons and talk with other adults. I got involved shortly after that first meeting and have been active ever since. It's a passion of mine.

Barb Person
 LWVSLP Treasurer
 LWVMN Board Member

Children First Asset #11

Family boundaries- Family has clear rules and consequences, and monitors the young person's whereabouts.

Did you know 47% of St. Louis Park young people feel they have clear rules and consequences at home and their parents monitor their whereabouts? Simple, positive and reasonable boundaries can improve youth's lives by setting family rules and consequences.

Be clear about rules such as curfew and when you expect them to check in. Let your child help establish what a consequence will be for breaking a rule before it happens.

**Unit 2 December meeting
December 11, 2013 – 12:30 pm**

Location: ParkShore Card Room

Topic: “Creating Vital Aging Communities – How You and Your Community Can Age Successfully Together”

Speaker: Dr. Bob Ramsey, author

Minnesota will experience an age wave in the coming years. Dr. Ramsey has written a book on how this demographic shift to an older generation will impact Minnesota. He will discuss how this change will have challenges but also offers many opportunities to encourage all of us to begin talking about preparing for the future.

He offers his book as a gift to the community.

For more information, contact Barbara Aslakson at 952-545-3178

**Unit 3 December meeting
December 19, 2013 7:00 pm**

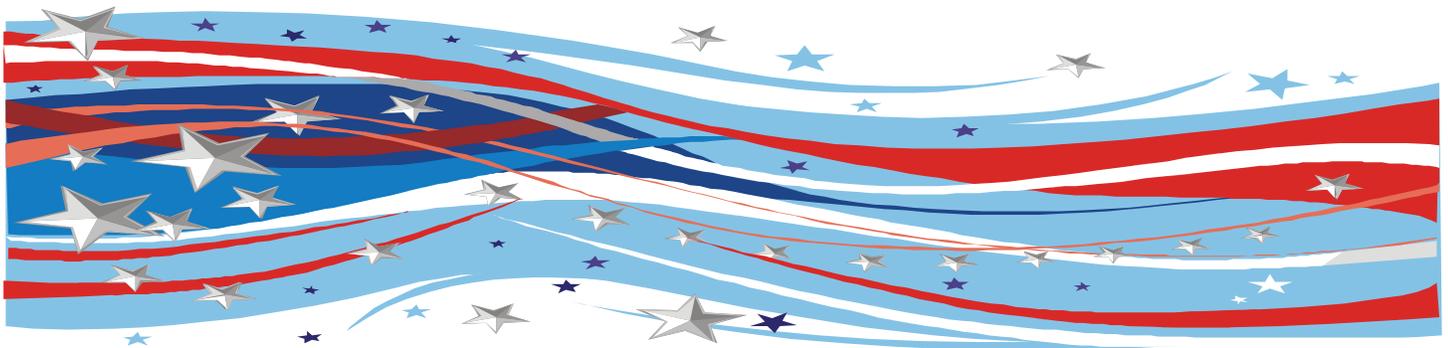
Location: City Hall Community Room

Topic: Water Quality and Quantity – St. Louis Park and the Metro Area

Speaker: Brian Davis, Met Council Senior Environmental Scientist, Water Supply Planning
Perry Edman, Water Resources Manager and Jay Hall, Utilities Manager, City of St. Louis Park

In the land of 10,000 lakes, we don’t often consider that water is more and more a limited resource. Dr. Davis will talk about the research and planning being done by the Met Council on managing regional water resources. Perry Edman and Jay Hall of the City will describe the current system for drinking water and wastewater management systems and challenges in SLP.

For more information, contact Aggie Leitheiser at 952-9383-6255



League of Women Voters Community Handbook History

From the St. Louis Park Historical Society Newsletter

In 1993, the League of Women Voters St. Louis Park (LWV SLP) decided to find out if St Louis Park was really a welcoming community. It was found that the two most common barriers for the new residents were transportation and communication. There were many services available, but it appeared difficult to find out about them.

A committee was formed: Peg Gingerich, Connie Iacono, Clara James, Ruth Licht, Barbara Person, Betty Shaw, Allie Skoro, Gayle Terpstra, Martha Ward, and Dorothy Karlson. All community resources including schools, churches, and community organizations were contacted. The results were printed in a report called "Feasibility of a One-Stop-Shop for Family Services." The report was widely distributed. It was hoped that one day the old Central Junior High would become a center for many community services where help would be available.

A One-Stop-Shop never materialized, but the information in the report proved useful. To carry the idea even further LWV SLP decided to create a "New Neighbors' Handbook" containing information on how to get help in an emergency, where to find things, educational opportunities, and more. A committee of leaguers was formed and the Handbook was created. It contained names and phone numbers of resources available and also gave important information in the form of "Good to Know" paragraphs.

The Handbook was translated into three other languages (Somali, Spanish, and Russian) and was distributed widely throughout the area. Eventually the City of St. Louis Park took over the printing and distribution of the handbook. Martha McDonnell, a city employee, became responsible for seeing that enough copies were available.

With the passage of time, the information in the Handbook needed to be updated. After a request came from the city, a committee was formed to make the book more current. Elaine White, Eilseen Knisely, Ellen Hacker, Barb Person, and Dorothy Karlson formed this committee and called every phone number in the Handbook to confirm that the information was correct. Email addresses and web sites were added.

When the Handbook was near completion it was discovered that the St. Louis Park School District had found that information about services available in the city was lacking. Teachers needed a way to inform parents about these services. As part of their strategic plan, the school district decided to develop a handbook and placed Linda Savaraid, director of Community Education, in charge of the project. It was a perfect collaboration!

Ms. Savaraid was able to make valuable additions to the Handbook. A local graphic artist, Kelli Burrrows, who also designed the "New Neighbors' Handbook," was hired to design the updated booklet. She also agreed to create a website for the Handbook and maintain it for two years.

The final product was a new black and orange handbook entitled "St Louis Park Community Resource Directory", and was distributed to schools, apartment complexes, and community buildings starting in the fall of 2010. Mary O'Brien took over the project when Linda Savaraid left the district.

The Family Services Collaborative approved \$4,000 to print and distribute 5,000 Directories. Copies were distributed to school and city employees, boards and councils, faith communities, non-profit organizations, and health care organizations.

The next step was to develop a web site for the Family Services Collaborative that would host the Community Resource Directory. Once again the Collaborative offered a grant of \$2,200 to make this happen. A plan was put into place to update the Directory. As a result, the Directory is available online offering current assistance to St. Louis Park residents. The Directory is available at: <http://www.slpfamilyservicescollaborative.org/community-resource-directory.html>

What started as a question about whether or not St. Louis Park is a welcoming community developed into an answer that continues to thrive. It helps fill the gap that was found in regard to communicating the availability of services and it happened because of the collaboration of the LWV SLP, Community Education and the St. Louis Park School District.

[Editor's note: The following article is from the LWVMN November 2013 Voter]

Registering new citizens: a special service of LWV

by Judy Stuthman



All Citizenship Ceremonies have special moments, but those who helped at the morning ceremony on June 26th were made aware of a young Somali woman who arrived with her IV tubes taped to her arm. She had given birth to a baby just 5 hours before! The judge swore her in before the ceremony began. She filled out her Minnesota Voter Registration form and gave it to the judge, who passed it to an LWV member, saying that he “wanted to make sure that it got to the right place.” Then the new citizen’s husband took her back to the hospital.

At another ceremony on June 29th, a man Skyped the event to his family overseas, so they could watch him take the oath. After witnessing numerous citizenship ceremonies, I have noticed that the judges’ remarks often contain statements such as “America is not perfect, but it is going to be a better country tomorrow because of you and what you bring to it,” or “Our diversity is our strength. Our country is like a fabric that has different kinds of thread in it, which makes it stronger and more beautiful than if all the threads were the same.”

By the end of the year LWV members will have registered over 8,000 new voters and facilitated several hundred more that filled out the forms between Oct. 15 and Election Day (when registration is closed). We tell these new citizens not to sign or date the form but to take it to the polls with them on Election Day, where they finish the form in front of the Election Judge. Since most new citizens are insecure about filling out the form, LWV members check it for accuracy at the citizenship ceremony. It saves both them and the judges a lot of time.

Judy Stuthman is a member of LWV Roseville/Maplewood/Falcon Heights and is a past co-president of LWV Minnesota. She has organized teams of LWV members to register new citizens for many years. If you are able to help at any of the ceremonies, please reply to jastuthman@aol.com



LWV United States

November 12, 2013

Dear Farm Bill Conferees:

We are writing to underscore how fundamentally important it is to protect and support the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and to oppose SNAP cuts in any Farm Bill Conference Report. If SNAP is weakened, our nation will have more hunger and food insecurity, worse educational outcomes, worse health, and higher health costs.

SNAP matters to neighbors in every community in the country. It serves children, seniors, those who are looking for work, those working at low wages, persons whose lives have been impacted by natural disasters, veterans and active duty military. It serves very vulnerable people. Indeed, 83 percent of SNAP benefits go to households with children, elderly persons or persons with disabilities.

SNAP benefits are meager – they now average a mere \$1.40 per person per meal. Each SNAP household's monthly SNAP allotment has gone down at least 5.5% as the temporary increase in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was terminated pursuant to 2010 enactments.

For example, a household of three now gets \$29 less in SNAP benefits per month compared to prior months. In FY 2014 alone, this cut to SNAP benefits will total \$5 billion and \$11 billion over the next three years.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has provided estimates of the impact of Farm Bill proposals on participants, including the number of SNAP participants that would lose SNAP eligibility, the number of SNAP children who would lose access to free school meals, and the number of SNAP households that would have their monthly benefits cut. Those CBO estimates belie any assertion that proposed SNAP cuts are not cuts to the food in needy people's cupboards and refrigerators. Make no mistake – proposed SNAP cuts mean taking desperately needed food away from vulnerable people.

While charities provide an important supplement to federal nutrition programs, they are not a replacement for a strong Federal safety net. Food banks and other charities can't make up for lost SNAP benefits. Federal nutrition programs deliver 23 times the amount of food assistance provided by private charities. In fact, the SNAP meals that would be lost in 2014 from the ARRA cuts and the proposed farm bill cuts would exceed the total annual meal distribution by the Feeding America network of food banks around the country. Food banks and pantries, churches, synagogues, and mosques and other charitable food providers are already struggling to meet tremendous need in their communities and cannot fill the gap created by cuts to SNAP eligibility and benefits.

Nearly 49 million Americans live in households that are food insecure. Too often they are forced to choose between paying for food or rent, medicine, shoes for the children or heat – choices no family should have to make. SNAP is an important means of lessening those incredibly difficult choices. Congress should be strengthening, not weakening SNAP. We urge you to reject Farm Bill SNAP cuts.

Sincerely, LWVUS plus 100 other organizations



Educate. Advocate. Reform.™

LWV St. Louis Park to Wrap for Donations to Scholarship Fund



Planning to buy a book for a Holiday present?

If so, why not do it at the Ridgedale Barnes & Noble Bookstore either Sunday December 15 between 10 and 12 or Thursday December 19 between 2 and 6.

Gift wrappers from LWV St. Louis Park will be by the door to wrap your purchases and solicit donations to support our scholarship fund for a St. Louis Park graduate.

Hope to see you there!

Observer Reports

City Council Observer – Judith Cook November 4, 2013

The City Council meeting opened at 7:35 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Roll Call. All Council members were present.

The minutes of the 10/14 and 10/21 study sessions were approved and the minutes of the 10/21 Council meeting were approved. The Agenda and Consent Calendar were approved. There were no reports from Boards and Commissions, no public hearings and no requests or petitions from the public.

Sean Walther requested the Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City to enter into a 2nd Cooperative Agreement with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District for the Minnehaha Creek Reach 20 Trail. With this agreement the City would own and maintain a pedestrian and bicycle bridge, walking paths from Meadowbrook Manor with a picnic/glade area that will have an overlook and benches. The Watershed District will own and care for other parts of the Minnehaha Reach 20 Trail. The cost to the City will be \$460,000 and the cost to the Watershed District will be about \$1.1 Million. The Council authorized this Agreement.

A Motion was made and adopted to increase the City Employees Benefit Plan by \$50. A motion to repeal the City Ordinance requiring criminal history background investigations for applicants for city employment or volunteer positions. The State required that there be such an ordinance or the background checks could not be made. However, the State no longer requires that such an ordinance be in place so the ordinance may be repealed. Background checks will still be done. This was the first reading to repeal and the first reading was approved.

Mayor Jacobs reminded everyone that the next day was election day and encouraged everyone to vote. If anyone was not aware of their polling place they should contact the City clerk, the Secretary of State or the LWV.

Sue Santa reminded everyone that 11/14 is Give To The Max Day. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

City Council Observer – Aggie Leitheiser November 18, 2013

Mayor Jeff Jacobs and Councilmember Sue Sanger were absent. Minutes of City Council Meeting of November 4 approved with changes and Special City Council Meeting of November 12 were approved.

Public Hearings were held on the following topics:

1. Liquor License Fees – currently midrange of other cities. Recommendation was made by staff to maintain fees at the current rate. Approved 5 to 0.

2. Liquor License application by Byerly's to offer onsale wine/beer during cooking class and as part of catering services through March 1, 2014. [SLP renews all liquor licenses in February]. Byerly's had a liquor license previously but did not continue it when the restaurant closed. They have done employee training. Ross Hughes appeared on behalf of Byerly's. Application approved.
3. Liquor License application for MGM Wine and Spirits to be located at 8100 Highway 7 (Knollwood Mall) through Marcy 1, 2014. This is a new incorporation. Discussion of whether SLP has an ordinance with spacing requirements for liquor stores. Although some cities have such a limit, SLP currently does not. First motion to approve license failed 3-2 (Hallfin, Ross voting no). A motion to reconsider was approved 4-1 (Hallfin). The final motion to table was approved 4-1 (Hallfin).
4. Currently Exchange License Renewal application for Excel Pawn & Jewelry at 8008 Minnetonka Boulevard. During the public hearing, concerns were raised that one of the owners has a criminal record that needed more review. The Currency Exchange License is approved by the state. The City has 60 days to review the application. If the City doesn't approve, the application is not approved by the State. The 60 days runs through December 26. The City is also currently in the process of reviewing a license renewal application for the pawnshop. Motion to table the issue until December 2 was approved 5-0 to allow time to get more information from the Minnesota Department of Commerce and SLP police background checks or whether there have been problems at this location.

Council Members Hallfin and Spano announced they were growing beards to increase awareness about prostate cancer.

Character is like a tree and reputation is like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.

Abraham Lincoln



LWV SLP OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2013-14

OFFICERS:

President: Deb Brinkman
 Vice President: Judith Cook
 Secretary: Vacant
 Treasurer/W. Metro: Barb Person
 Observer: Dorothy Karlson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Voter Service: Eilseen Knisley
 Voter Service: Carlota Medus
 Membership: Judy Cook
 CMAL: Debbie Blake
 Voter Editor: Aggie Leitheiser

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS PARK

Name (Family Member #1): _____

Name (Family Member #2): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Dues (Dues and subscriptions are not tax deductible.)

- First Year Introduction Special \$25.00**
- Voter Subscription Only \$10.00
- Single Active Attending Member \$45.00
- Supporting/Member-at-Large \$50.00
- Family Membership (household) \$70.00
- Add me to The Voter eMail Distribution List (free)

Make checks payable to LWV SLP

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