



# Voter

League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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The LWV St. Louis Park *Voter* Newsletter will be taking a short summer break. Watch for the next edition in late summer.



## May Calendar

**May 7, 2015 Board Meeting 7 pm**  
Location: Aggie Leitheiser’s Home

**May 13, 2015 Unit 2 meeting 1:00 PM**  
Location: Tower Light Apartments  
TOPIC: SLP Post Office Service and Issues

**May 14, 2015 Unit 3 meeting 7:00 PM**  
Location: City Hall Westwood Room  
TOPIC: SLP Post Office Service and Issues

**May 17, 2015 Ice Cream Social**  
2:00 to 5:00 pm  
Children First - Wolfe Park

**May 27, 2015 Scholarship Day at SLP High School 7 pm**

## Summer 2015

June 4, 2015 Board Meeting  
Location:

June 13 -14 LWVMN Convention Duluth

June 18 to 21 2015 Parktacular

July 9, 2015 Board Meeting  
Location:

August 1, 2015 Concert – Salute to Bob Dylan  
Judy Cook

August 6, 2015 6 pm Planning Meeting  
Location: Deb’s Home

## President's Message

### April 2015

And that's a wrap! We have another fine year under our belt. As Eilseen commented at our Annual Meeting, I didn't realize how much we had accomplished until I read through the President's Report.

Our Annual Meeting at McCoys was very good, and jam-packed with information. To those who were not able to join us because you were ill: I hope you are feeling better. We missed you.

Nora Wildgen of Humming For Bees presented a very thorough presentation. She also had several handouts with bee information. Watch for more bee information in the Voter. The bee plight continues to gain traction. The LWV South Tonka is supporting the effort by initiating a caucus at the State Convention for a Briefing Paper regarding the Decline of Bees in Minnesota. Look for more information in The Voter. I encourage you to read up on what St. Louis Park is doing to be bee friendly. We have a long way to go to be a bee friendly city.

Again, thank you to everyone who helped with the Annual Meeting: Judy for managing our lunch selections, Eilseen for the table decorations and bee keychain for Nora; Aggie, Dorothy, Barb, Barbara, Judy, and Eilseen for preparing the Board Portfolio Reports and participation in the Business Meeting.

Looking ahead, May is really focused on the kids. Eilseen will be registering seniors on Cap and Gown Day (she needs a few more people to help), we will award our scholarship, and we will have a table at the Kids First Ice Cream Social –please stop by!

Enjoy the summer!

*Deb Brinkman, President*

*LWV SLP*

### Highlights from the April 2015 LWV SLP Board Meeting:

- \* LWV United States raised their rates. We discussed the budget impact and decided to have the budget committee raise the dues next year.
- \*Reviewed our Unit Meetings and the Flight Behavior Book Review – it was great. The CMAL presentation was called A Home For Everyone. The City Council Meeting Proclamation on Bees. Children First Breakfast.
- \*Annual Meeting Planning
- \*A Tea for our newest Lifetime Member, Eleanor Sachs will be held June 13 at 2 pm.
- \*The May Unit Meetings are moved 1 week earlier to accommodate our speaker from the Post Office.
- \*Kids Voting is preparing for the next steering committee meeting. Traci Warner from Kids Voting Minnesota will be joining us.
- \*We have a number of new member prospects.
- \*This will be the last month for Observer until the fall.
- \*LWVMN updates: State Convention Reminder. I Have A Name exhibit at the Landmark Center. They need photos of our League in action for the State Convention.



## Worth Noting

### **Welcome new member Karen Walters to LWVSLP!**

Karen is a member of the SLP School Board and a member of the Steering Committee for Kids Voting. We're pleased to have you join us.

### *Notes from April 20 Kids Voting Steering Committee Meeting*

We heard good news about finances. Because of Legacy Amendment, Kids Voting MN will pay for all of our expenses for the first year including ballots, ballot boxes, study shields, I Voted stickers, and coloring books. They will also provide free counting of ballots with results available the next day on their web site.

We reviewed the responsibilities for League and for the Steering Committee for Aquila and for the Middle School including ordering materials, getting volunteers, and publicity. Some changes and additions were made.

League will compose the note for parents about whether Aquila students will vote with parents or with their classmates in school. This will be sent to Sara and then to Clarence for approval. We will not know the number of students voting at each polling place until fall when registration is complete.

We need to find out what regulations there are about political candidates appearing at a school event. It was suggested that Middle School students watch the League forums in their home rooms, perhaps just for 15 minutes each time until the entire forum is shown.

Sara will target parent leaders who can help to evaluate the success of Kids Voting.

Betty will ask Girl Scouts to make posters about voting due by October 19th.

We formed a communications committee consisting of Sara Thompson, Karen Waters, and members of the League. That committee will meet on May 11th at 2:30.

We reviewed St Louis Park Assets that apply to Kids Voting

We determined that the Steering Committee will serve as the budget committee. We will need to find grants and other funding for Kids Voting in 2017.

We set the date for our next Steering Committee. We will meet in the atrium on July 9th at 2:30.

## *Voting Legislation in Other States*

### **Rights Restoration Bill Heads to Maryland Governor**

The Maryland legislature overwhelmingly [approved a bill](#) recently to restore voting rights to [nearly 40,000 citizens](#) with past criminal convictions.

Current Maryland law prohibits individuals from voting until they have finished probation and parole. The new measure — which now [heads to Gov. Larry Hogan](#) (R) for his signature — simplifies the process by allowing an individual to become eligible to vote when released from prison, or if they were never incarcerated in the first place.

“Americans believe in second chances,” [said Tomas Lopez](#). “Restoring a person’s right to vote once they’ve paid their debt to society gives them an opportunity for redemption and a chance to be full members of their community.”

The measure was supported by a broad array of Maryland groups who form the Unlock the Vote coalition, which includes faith, racial justice, and civil rights leaders.

Maryland’s action comes as rights restoration continues to gain [bipartisan support](#), with bills introduced [in Congress and several states](#) in recent months. More than 20 states, including Maryland, have improved their [criminal disenfranchisement laws](#) over the past two decades.

### **Texas Photo ID Law Blocks Legitimate Voters**

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals is scheduled to hear oral argument April 28 on Texas’s strict photo ID law.

A federal judge [struck down](#) the measure in October 2014, finding 600,000 registered voters lacked the photo ID now needed. The requirement, the judge ruled, makes it harder for minorities to vote, was enacted to intentionally discriminate against minorities, and unconstitutionally burdens the right to vote.

The Supreme Court, however, allowed Texas’s law to remain in place for the November 2014 election — and voters paid the consequences. Unprotected by the courts, the photo ID requirement left many confused and prevented several from voting entirely. The Brennan Center — which is part of the [legal team](#) representing the plaintiffs in the case — [shared stories](#) of several of those voters this week.

**Sheileh Hejny**, 68, was born in Texas and has voted since she was 21, but she could not vote last November. Her driver’s license is expired, but she does have photo identification — a military survivor’s ID. When she tried to use it during early voting, however, poll workers refused to accept it because they said it was expired. Ms. Hejny said making her voice heard is very important to her, especially because her husband spent time in the military, and the two of them always voted. She will not be stopped again, and plans to vote in the next election.

**Kim Stanger**, 55, is a retired kindergarten teacher in Ben Wheeler, Texas who votes regularly. She did not have her driver's license when she went to the polls in November and was ultimately unable to vote, despite casting a provisional ballot with the correct information, including her driver's license number. About a week after submitting the ballot, Ms. Stanger received a letter claiming her driver's license number, which she has memorized, was missing from the form. She mailed in the number again but received another letter saying the ballot was rejected for lack of a driver's license number. She received no responses from multiple follow up phone calls.

**Daniel Menchaca**, 61, of El Paso also couldn't vote in 2014. He has a civilian-worker ID from his job at a federal agency. It has his picture and an expiration date and he needed to undergo thorough background checks to receive it. "I understand that they want you to show an ID, but my card was issued by the federal government," he said. "My ID is good enough to get on a military base, but it's not good enough to vote?"

## FROM LWVUS

### Constitutional Amendment Study Committee Recommended Reading (NEW)

The Constitutional Amendment study will explore what constitutes an appropriate and well-crafted constitutional amendment. For Local Leagues that want to begin to prepare for the study, here is a paper published by The Century Foundation in 1999: [Great and Extraordinary Occasions: Developing Guidelines for Constitutional Change](#). This paper, developed by a long list of eminent lawyers and scholars, presents eight guidelines for constitutional amendments. It analyzes historical amendments and contemporaneous proposals (those discussed during the 104th and 105th Congresses, 1995 - 1999) against these guidelines.

### Many of you asked about the recipe for weed control that was mentioned at the annual meeting.



#### Weed-Be-Gone

- 1 Gallon Vinegar
- 2 Cups Epson Salt
- 1/4 Cup Dawn Dish Soap (The Blue Original)

It will kill anything you spray it on. Just mix and spray in the morning, after the dew has evaporated. Walk away. Go back after dinner and the weeds are all gone!

Cheaper than anything you can buy anywhere! Never buy Round-up again!

## Tips to Increase the Bee Friendly Status of St. Louis Park



Saturday June 6, 2015 | 9am – 3pm

### Community Pavilion at the Roseville Cub Foods

1201 Larpenteur Ave W

Roseville, MN 55113

**Purchase pollinator-safe native plants at Landscape Revival. Native growers participating in the sale do not use neonicotinoid insecticides.**

The Landscape Revival — Native Plant Expo and Market offers gardeners one convenient location to shop for Minnesota native plants from 12 local native growers and learn how to use the plants from conservation organizations. Accessory products such as organic compost, rain barrels and native plant seed will also be for sale. The goal of Landscape Revival is to promote the use of native plants by educating about their benefits for wildlife habitat, pollinators and water quality. The event is sponsored by Saint Paul Audubon, Capitol Region Watershed District, Wild Ones , Blue Thumb and Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District.

### Why Natives?

Many of us don't think about choosing plants that are native to Minnesota when we plan our gardens. Instead, we pick plants for their color, their hardiness or how quickly they grow. But by choosing Minnesota native plants, plant species that have grown in this area for hundreds of years and are thus well adapted to our conditions, we can create spectacular gardens that are a haven for wildlife and protect our lakes and the Mississippi River.

In Minnesota, there are trends that threaten wildlife. Bees, butterflies, birds and other animals are quickly losing their habitat as our growing population creates the need for more land development. These developments also change how water moves over the landscape and create more runoff where water would naturally soak into the soil. Also, the spread of invasive plants is degrading and fragmenting the habitat that remains. You can help by growing native plant species that sustain wildlife in a way that nonnative plants do not.

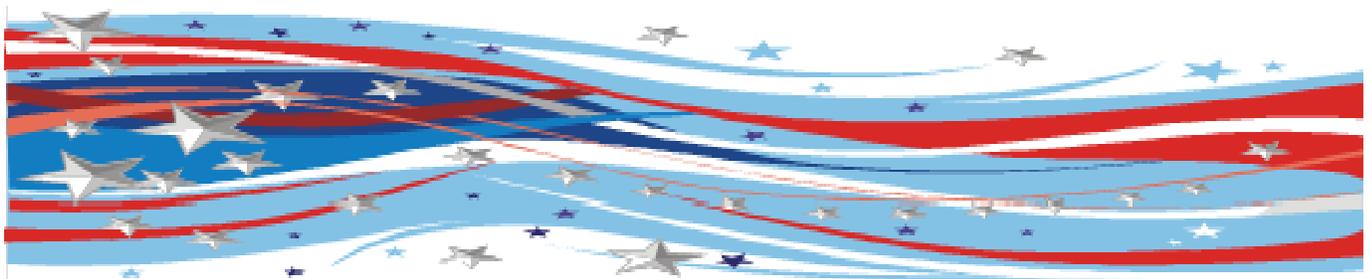
Begin creating your wildlife oasis by talking to professionals at the Landscape Revival. You can start small. The beauty and rewards you discover will make you want to do more!

**St. Louis Park Children’s First Assets**

**#26 Caring**

Did you know 50% of St. Louis Park young people place a high value on helping others?

As a family, help those around you. Shovel a neighbor’s driveway, make a meal for the family of a hospitalized friend or stop and give someone directions.



**Observer Reports**

**St. Louis Park City Council – April 20, 2015. Aggie Leitheiser, Reporter**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. Retirement recognition was given to Rec Center Public Service Worker John Monte and Engineering Technician Al Oliviera. Recognition of the ACT on Alzheimers St. Louis Park for their volunteer efforts in support of persons with Alzheimers and their families. Accepted a donation of \$1,000 from the St. Louis Park Rotary for support of the Summer Concert Series.

Minutes were approved with some corrections and Consent Calendar items were approved as submitted.

A Public Hearing on the application for an Off-sale Intoxicating Liquor License for Thiens dba St. Louis Park Liquor at 6316 Minnetonka Boulevard. The Mayor closed the hearing and a motion was made to deny the application based on information about the applicant. Following some discussion about whether the applicant provided the additional information that might have given the Council more information, the motion was approved with Brauson abstaining. The City Attorney was directed to prepare the related documents.

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**St Louis Park City Council Meetings- April 27, 2015. Shelley Colvin, Reporter**

The mayor was not present at this meeting.

6:30PM- RECONVENE 2015 LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION – Council Chambers  
 Votes were taken on the appeals of the value of a long list of properties. The votes were quick as the research had been done. There was some discussion, particularly when the value was changed significantly. The council lawyer explained how values were determined. It was also pointed out by some council members that the last few years were a time when values fluctuated, but it was pointed out that the assessment would have to reflect the present conditions and not necessarily the increase. For some properties that meant a sharp jump in value.

7:45-9:30 CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION- 1st floor Community Room

Most of the time was taken by the discussion of the development of the former Bally Fitness Club property. There was a proposal by a developer to build a multi-use building, including residential, retail, and parking. There was already an interested retail tenant, a grocery. There had been a neighborhood meeting on 4-8-2015, held to hear comments. Subsequently the building went from 6 stories to 5 with a reduction of residential units from 189 to 179. Also, more landscaping was added. There were some comments by council members that the building was too stark. There was also a discussion that the number of affordable housing units went from 18 to 10. This brought the percentage of affordable units out of the 10% required by the council. This was a ratio that had been determined earlier for any new development. As this was a study session, no decisions were made.

**LWV SLP Calendar 2015**

<b>June</b>	<b>Parktacular June 10, 1963 Equal Pay for Women June 23, 1972 Equality in education and sports</b>	<b>Fair Labor Standards Act Title IX</b>
<b>June 4, 2015</b>	<b>Board Meeting Location:</b>	
<b>June 13 -14</b>	<b>LWV Minnesota Convention Location: Duluth</b>	<b>LWV Minnesota</b>
<b>June 2015</b>	<b>Parktacular</b>	
<b>July</b>	<b>July 1, 1971 – age to vote from 21 to 18 July 2, 1964 – Equal Rights Amendment</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> Amendment Title VII Employment Equality</b>
<b>July 9, 2015</b>	<b>Board Meeting Location:</b>	
<b>August</b>	<b>Getting Ready</b>	
<b>August 6, 2015 6 pm</b>	<b>Planning Meeting Location: Deb's Home</b>	<b>Deb Brinkman</b>
<b>August, 2015</b>	<b>Concert – Salute to Bob Dylan</b>	<b>Judy Cook</b>



**LWV SLP OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2014-15**

**OFFICERS:**

President: Deb Brinkman  
 Vice President: Barb Person  
 Secretary: Barbara Aslakson  
 Treasurer: Judy Cook  
 Observer: Dorothy Karlson

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Voter Service: Eilseen Knisley  
 Public Relations: Judy Cook  
 Membership: Barb Person  
 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**

**(a portion of dues are now tax deductible):**

- Single Active Attending Member \$55.00
- Supporting/Member-at-Large \$60.00
- Family Membership \$70.00  
 (2 or more in single household)

**Make checks payable to LWV SLP  
 and send check & this form to:**

Barb Person, Membership Chair  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED