



# 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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### November Calendar

#### General Election November 4

**November 6 7 pm**

Board Meeting - Barb Person’s Home

**November 8 9:30 am – 12 pm**

West Metro Meeting on Immigration  
SLP City Hall

**November 19 1 pm** Unit 2 Meeting

Topic: Immigration  
Tower Light Residence

**November 17 7:30 pm**

Present Kids Voting Project to the City  
Council

### December Calendar

**December 4 7 pm**

Board Meeting - Dorothy Karlson’s Home

**December 17 1 pm**

Unit 2 Meeting Holiday Social and Lively  
Issues  
Tower Light Residence

**TBD Gift Wrapping Fundraiser**  
**Barnes and Noble**

**December 18 7 pm** Unit 3 Meeting

Holiday Social and Lively Issues  
Deb Brinkman’s Home



## Remember to Vote!

### Tuesday November 4, 2014

## President's Message November 2014

The election is just around the corner. I hope you had a chance to go online and print your ballot and research the candidates. I continually remind my family and friends of this wonderful service.

I attended the October CMAL (Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues) meeting with Betty Shaw, Debbie Blake and Wendy Stageberg. The speaker was from the Met Council and reviewed the cyclical nature of how they plan. I was surprised at the large number of services the Met Council plans for. I was also surprised that there were no light-rail questions!

I'm especially pleased to report that we received a request for a speaker. Barb Person and Sue Sanger presented the Money in Politics topic to the SLP Golden Kiwanis using the DVD prepared by the LWV Minnesota. It's nice to be recognized as a knowledgeable community resource.

I strongly encourage you to review the Campaign Finance documents and videos posted on the LWV Minnesota web site. [www.lwvmn.org](http://www.lwvmn.org)

Welcome new member, Heidi Stulberg! Heidi is a friend of LWV Member Carlota Medus.

Thank you to Eilseen and all of our League members for hosting the coordinating all the activities associated with the candidate forum. We are very fortunate to have the coordination of Park TV and our City Hall Council Chambers as available resources.

*Deb Brinkman, President*  
*LWV SLP*

### Highlights from the October 2014 LWV SLP Board Meeting:

\*Board Meetings are open to any SLP League Member. Please let Deb Brinkman know if you would like to receive information for the board meetings.

\*The board reviewed the September events.

\*We are still waiting to confirm if the LWVMN approved our Bylaws

\*Kids Voting will be presented to the School Board on October 27 and the City Council on November 17

\*Final preparation for the St. Louis Park Candidate Forum were made. Betty Shaw will bring three Girl Scouts. We still need a timer.

\*Annual Meeting speaker options were discussed

\*Free movie tickets to PRIDE are available to LWV Members

\*Judith Stuthman is receiving the National Secretaries of State Medallion Award October 15



## Worth Noting

### Logene Kobe, LWV St. Louis Park Lifetime Member

It is with a heavy heart that we announce that one of our Lifetime Members, Logene Kobe passed away.

The memorial service will be December 1st at Lake Harriet Methodist Church.

Logene holds a special place in President Deb Brinkman's heart as she hosted the very first League meeting that she attended. We remember her as being a quiet and kind, but very knowledgeable and opinionated about the current issues.

Please keep Logene's family in your thoughts and prayers as they go through this difficult time.



#### What Would Happen If we Took Big Money Out of Politics?

- \*\*\* Elected leaders would be accountable only to the voters.
- \*\*\* A more diverse pool of candidates would be able to run for office—those who have community support but don't have big donors.
- \*\*\* Citizens would have the opportunity to control government policies.
- \*\*\* Elected leaders could focus on the issues rather than fundraising.\*

\*from a new publication from LWVMN on "Money in Politics"

#### Children's First Assets #20 Time at Home

Did you know that 51% of St. Louis Park young people report being out with friends with no special plans two or fewer nights a week?

Time at home is necessary in developing family bonds and strengthening family trust. Place a priority on spending time with your children or young relatives. Participate in enjoyable activities such as a family game night or regular family meals.

## District 46 Candidate Forum Highlights

Candidates for House Legislative Districts participated in a LWV St Louis Park sponsored Forum on October 22. Questions from LWV members and audience members included education, local government aid, regulation on gun use, funding for roads and transit, and personal statements of issues and concerns. Susan Scribner from LWV Minnetonka, Eden Prairie and Hopkins moderated the evening. We were assisted in gathering questions from the audience by members of the Girl Scouts.



**Our Girl Scout Helpers**



**Susan Scribner – Moderator**



## Kids Voting Update – League of Women Voters St. Louis Park

At the Kids Voting Steering Committee Meeting October 20, 2014, Kari Ross welcomed the attendees and introductions were made. Sara Thompson told about the false report that Kids Voting both national and statewide were folding. Changes are being made, but both organizations are continuing to be very active.

The Mission Statement was updated to be:

The mission of Kids Voting SLP is: to foster an educated and engaged electorate by partnership of schools, families and community to enrich the civic education of St Louis Park students and to prepare them to be informed voters.

Kids Voting St Louis Park is a member of Kids Voting USA, a nonprofit bipartisan community organization that prepares and motivates future voters with nationally acclaimed curriculum and hands on voting experience on Election Day. Kids Voting is a community-based solution to building a strong generation of voters for the future. Kids Voting believes that if kids experience civic involvement they will create a habit of informed voting that will last through their adult years.

Kids Voting St Louis Park provides civics based classroom lessons and activities. Students learn about the right to vote, democracy, civic responsibility, and the importance of participation in the election process.

On Election Day, Kids Voting St Louis Park strives to give students the opportunity to experience an authentic voting experience by casting a Kids Voting ballot at a St Louis Park precinct polling location. This simple act takes the mystery out of the voting process and instills a sense of pride, accomplishment and responsibility which will stay with the student into adulthood.

Aquila and the Middle School are interested in having a Kids Voting program in the fall of 2015.

Middle School students could vote at the school and Aquila students could vote at the polling place at the school or at other precincts depending on where they live. Brianna Erickson will make a map showing overlaps of precincts and school boundaries. It was suggested that activities be planned for children who come early in the morning with their parents to vote.

Kari stated that Social Studies is in place in the current curriculum. Classes from Kids Voting USA will easily fit the requirements for this subject and could be taught in the two months before the election.

We discussed a possible event involving candidates for local elections in 2015. It would be done in conjunction with another event already scheduled such a PIE (Partners in Education), a successful event previously held where there could be a book sale, flu shots, and pie! It was suggested that students write questions they would like to ask the attending political candidates and that students ask their questions to the candidates.

We are planning to add principals and a teacher to our Steering Committee as we develop the plans in their schools. The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be on November 17th from 2:30 to 4:00.

## Welcome to 3 New LWV St. Louis Park Members!



### Betty Shaw

Betty has lived in St. Louis Park since 1966 and has been very involved in our community even while raising four children.

As an attorney, she worked for the Supreme Court of Minnesota on the Lawyer’s Professional Responsibility Board from 1985 to 2007 and also worked in private practice for many years. She was a LWV SLP member part of that time but found her life too busy to do it all.

Betty has a passion for kids and schools. She served on the St. Louis Park School Board from 1988 to 2002 and was instrumental in the founding of Community Education program. Currently she is a Service Unit Manager for the Girl Scouts in St. Louis Park and is helping girls in 4<sup>th</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade develop their leadership skills.

Betty is very involved with her children and ten grandchildren all of which live in the Twin Cities. She loves to travel and even finds time to play bridge.

Please welcome Betty back to League.

\*\*\*\*\*



### Shelley Colvin

Shelley grew up in Edina and has lots of family in the area. Shelly received a B.A. at Syracuse University in social studies and education, and a Masters in Divinity from Union College in New York.

She has worked for both Hennepin County and the state of Minnesota administering a Social Security Insurance grant for chronic addiction of alcohol. In 1991, she moved to Seattle where she managed a bereavement program for hospice patients and the community, then moved to Raleigh, NC in 1996 where she helped develop a bereavement camp for children in North Carolina.

After her husband’s recent retirement, they moved back to Minnesota to be with their family. Her daughter is a junior in college in Philadelphia, PA and her Shelley’s mother lives in St. Louis Park.

Shelley has a passion for the environment and hopes to get involved with a non-profit that benefits the environment. She loves to be outside enjoying the beauty of nature by hiking, cross country skiing and camping in many parts of the US and Canada. She is also an avid reader the loves to travel.

Please welcome Shelley back to Minnesota.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Nancy Rose**

Nancy has lived in St. Louis Park since 1972. She grew up in Breckenridge, MN and moved to the cities to go to the University of Minnesota. She wound up staying. She majored in psychology with an interest in math which led to her interest in marketing. She worked in marketing information, doing surveys for market research agencies.

Her passion is for natural resources. In 2012 the SLP City Council voted to spend \$10 M to clean up storm water and the land around it and she wants to see Bass Lake revitalized since her property backs up to the lake. She loves being outdoors and hopes to see the lake cleaned up.

Nancy also has a great interest in Minnesota artists and feels that this is a wonderful time to collect Minnesota art.

Please welcome Nancy to LWV SLP.

\*\*\*\*\*

**LWV West Metro Alliance Presents:**

**Welcome My Neighbor  
Immigration in Minnesota**

- Date: Saturday, November 8, 2014, 9 a.m. – 12:00 noon
- Time: 9:00 a.m. **Social Time with Coffee and Pastries**
- 9:20 **Welcome**
- 9:30 **Changing State Demographics**  
Allison Liuzzi, Research Scientist, Minnesota Compass project,  
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
- 10:00 **Immigrant Contribution to the Economy**  
Prof. Bruce Corrie, PhD, Concordia University; Sarah Radosevich,  
Policy Research Analyst, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
- 10:30 **Current State Policies/Legislation around Immigration**  
Judy Stuthman, LWV Minnesota
- 11:00 **Immigrants Share Personal Stories**  
Global Golden Valley
- 11:55 **Closing**

Location: St. Louis Park City Hall, Council Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
5005 Minnetonka Blvd.  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

## LWVUS News

### **Arkansas Voter Photo Id Law Struck Down (NEW)**

[The Arkansas Supreme Court struck down a state law that requires voters to show photo identification](#) before casting a ballot, ruling the requirement unconstitutional under their state constitution.

### **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS REGISTERS VOTERS AT MORE THAN 400 EVENTS**

#### *National Voter Registration Day Gateway to Voting for Thousands in November Election*

**Washington, DC** – The League of Women Voters is proud to participate in [National Voter Registration Day 2014](#) (NVRD), a 50-state effort to register hundreds of thousands of voters on one single day. As a founding organizing partner of NVRD and the single-largest on-the-ground organization, the League and more than 1,800 partner organizations helped register 350,000 new voters on this single day of action in 2012 and 2013.

“Today, volunteer League teams have stepped up to the challenge and have registered voters at more than [400 events around the country](#),” said Elisabeth MacNamara, President of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. “We are thrilled to be a part of this day because voter empowerment is what we have been doing for nearly 100 years and NVRD is the front door to participation for thousands of eligible voters.”

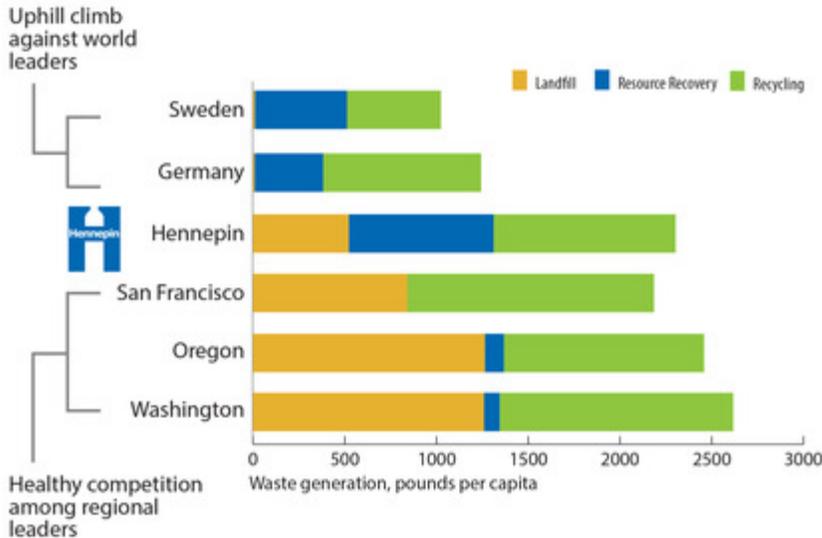
“Voter registration is *the key* to getting Americans participating in the political process, yet close to one in four eligible Americans is not registered to vote,” said MacNamara. “This includes disproportionate numbers of young Americans, minorities, low-income Americans, and those who have recently moved. We’ve come a long way, but it’s no secret that our halls of power aren’t very reflective of our communities,” said MacNamara. “For democracy to work best, we need everyone to weigh in.”

“There is a great deal at stake in November: the entire U.S. House of Representatives and dozens of U.S. Senate, Governor and hundreds of other state offices will be decided by voters this year,” MacNamara said. “These races are about jobs, economic and national security, access to health care and safety in our communities. All Americans deserve the chance to stand up for what matters most to them. And the best way to do that is to register and vote.”

“Research shows that simply asking a friend or relative to vote can have a major positive impact,” noted MacNamara. “We all have people in our lives whose voter registration isn’t up to date. Send them a text or email today and help them get started by visiting the League’s election information website [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).”

## Sweden sends only 1 percent of waste to landfills

Hennepin County looks to examples of international leaders in meeting landfill diversion goals



Sweden has received accolades recently for sending only 1 percent of their waste to landfills. Sweden accomplishes their goal of limiting the landfilling of waste by implementing aggressive recycling programs that recover about 50 percent of their waste and sending the other half to waste-to-energy facilities where the trash is burned to generate energy.

Hennepin County looks to international leaders like Sweden as we work to meet our [goals of increasing recycling and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills](#). Hennepin County is similar to Sweden in that we have a good recycling rate with room for improvement – we recycle about 40 percent of our waste – and a portion of waste generated in the county is sent to the [Hennepin Energy Recovery Center](#), a waste-to-energy facility in downtown Minneapolis. In 2013, the county achieved our goal of diverting 80 percent of waste from landfills. However, we can do more to send less waste to landfills by generating less waste overall and diverting more waste to recycling and composting.

**“Nobody will ever deprive the American people the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.” Franklin D. Roosevelt**

## October 2014 CMAL Meeting Recap

by Liz Lauder

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) met on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, in Woodbury City Hall to kick off a new year of discussing topics of particular interest to Twin Cities Metro Area members of the League of Women Voters. This year, the CMAL is focusing on the long-range planning document of the Metropolitan Council known as ThriveMSP2040. Met Council Member Wendy Wulff took on the daunting task of trying to explain to us the whole of the Council's 197-page plan in an hour (the full plan can be viewed at: <http://www.metrocouncil.org/Planning/Projects/Thrive-2040/Thrive-MSP-2040-Plan.aspx?source=child>) . This 30-year plan for the seven county metro area is designed to provide a vision for the future and to guide policy-making within the Met Council and the creation of comprehensive plans for the governments and other agencies under the Council's jurisdiction. The plan covers four areas: housing, transportation, regional parks, and water resources. It is revised every ten years to account for population and economic changes. For instance, the most current population projections were revised downwards after it was found that the effects of the recent economic recession had curtailed growth.

The prevailing theme of the Thrive2040 plan is on maximizing and maintaining the current infrastructure, rather than on expansion. The housing plan encourages metro communities to erect new buildings where there are already existing sewer pipes in place. The water resources section highlights the draw-down of the area aquifers, and promotes ways of reducing water use and recycling waste water for other purposes. The transportation portion of the Met Council's plan notes that the federal government is changing its criteria for funding road building projects. The Council anticipates that there will be no further expansion of the road system in the metro area after 2024, unless a new source of funding can be found. The focus now is on creating and maintaining infrastructure that will connect people to jobs, and on moving materials safely and quickly through and within the metro area.

One area that will see expansion is that of the regional parks system. The acreage of land being set aside for parks is going to increase, and the Council is going to promote the building of trails to connect the parks.

The Met Council's plan has created controversy in several communities. The transportation and parks plans in particular have drawn fire from municipal governments and residents, saying that the plans don't benefit their communities and are an unfair tax burden on their citizens. Council Member Wulff fielded questions about her experiences with being on the Council. She, like all Council members, was appointed by the Governor. In the past, their terms were staggered, but recent changes to the laws governing this political subdivision of the state government mean that all Council members can be changed in toto under a new Governor. Council Member Wulff was appointed by both a Republican (Pawlenty) and DFL (Dayton) governor. She talked about the vetting and confirmation process (all Council members are confirmed by the State Senate), and about the steep learning curve for new members. It really is more like being hired for a very important job and not a popularity contest nor a political statement.

The CMAL will be examining the separate pieces of the Thrive2040 plan over the coming year. Delegates, League members, and the public are invited to the next meeting, which will be looking at the regional parks plan, on Saturday, January 17, 2015, at 10:00am at the Roseville branch of the Ramsey County Public Libraries (2180 North Hamline Ave., Roseville, MN 55113).

## LWV SLP Calendar 2014 - 2015

|                          |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| <b>January</b>           | <b>Legislative Interviews</b>  |  |
| January 8, 2015          | Board Meeting<br>Location: Barbara's home  | Barbara Aslakson                                     |
| January 10 or 24         | Unit 2 Meeting<br>Topic: Legislative Interviews<br>Location: Union Congregational Church         | Barbara Aslakson<br>Debbie Blake<br>Eilseen Knisely  |
| January 10 or 24         | Unit 3 Meeting<br>Topic: Legislative Interviews<br>Location: Union Congregational Church         | Eilseen Knisely                                      |
| January 17               | CMAL   | Debbie Blake   |
| <b>February</b>          | <b>95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of LWV<br/>Black History Month</b>                                |  |
| February 5               | Board Meeting<br>Location: Judy's home   | Judy Cook  |
| February 18              | Unit 2 Meeting<br>Topic: Inclusion "We're All the Same"<br>Location: Tower Light                 | Barbara Aslakson<br>Debbie Blake<br>Aggie Leitheiser |
| February 19              | Unit 3 Meeting<br>Topic Inclusion "We're All The Same"<br>Location: City Hall                    | Aggie Leitheiser                                     |
| <b>March</b>             | <b>Women's History Month</b>   |  |
| March 5                  | Board Meeting<br>Location: Eilseen's home  | Eilseen Knisely                                      |
| March 18<br>1 or 1:30 pm | Unit 2 Meeting<br>Topic: Bees<br>Location: Tower Light   | Barbara Aslakson<br>Debbie Blake<br>Barb Person      |
| March 19<br>7 pm         | Unit 3 Meeting<br>Topic: Bees<br>Location: SLP City Hall   | Barb Person  |
| March 21                 | CMAL<br>Topic:   | Debbie Blake   |
| March                    | West Metro<br>Topic:<br>Location:  | West Metro Rep: Barb Person                          |
| <b>April</b>             | <b>LWVSLP Birthday 61</b>  |  |
| April 2                  | Board Meeting<br>Location: Debbie's Home   | Debbie Blake   |
| April                    | Empty Bowls<br>Westwood Lutheran Church  |  |
| April 18                 | 61st Annual Meeting<br>Topic: Water or Campaign Finance /<br>Citizens United<br>Location: McCoys | LWV SLP BOARD  |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| April                                  | Career Day at the High School with Karen Waters  | Eilseen  |
| May                                    | Celebrate St. Louis Park Kids<br>May 19, 1919 Women's Right to Vote                                | 19 <sup>th</sup> Amendment                                     |
| May 7<br>7 pm                          | Board Meeting<br>Location: Aggie's Home  | Aggie Leitheiser   |
| May 20<br>1 or 1:30                    | Unit 2 Meeting<br>Topic: Book Review<br>Location: Tower Light                                      | Barbara Aslakson<br>Debbie Blake<br>Dorothy Karlson            |
| May 21<br>7 pm                         | Unit 3 Meeting<br>Topic: Book Review<br>Location: SLP City Hall                                    | Dorothy Karlson  |
| May 23<br>9:30 coffee<br>10:00 program | CMAL Annual Meeting<br>Topic:<br>Location:   | Debbie Blake   |
| May                                    | Ice Cream Social – Children First<br>Wolfe Park  | Deb  |
| May                                    | Scholarship Program<br>SLP High School   | Deb  |
| June                                   | Parktacular<br>June 10, 1963 Equal Pay for Women<br>June 23, 1972 Equality in education and sports | Fair Labor Standards Act<br>Title IX                           |
| June 4                                 | Board Meeting<br>Location:   |  |
| June 13 -14                            | LWV Minnesota Convention<br>Location: Duluth   | LWVMN  |
| June                                   | Parktacular  |  |
| July                                   | July 1, 1971 – age to vote from 21 to 18<br>July 2, 1964 – Equal Rights Amendment                  | 26 <sup>th</sup> Amendment<br>Title VII Employment<br>Equality |
| July 9                                 | Board Meeting<br>Location:   |  |
| August                                 | Getting Ready  |  |
| August 6<br>6 pm                       | Planning Meeting<br>Location: Deb's Home   | Deb Brinkman   |

## LWVMN Shifts from Phone-a-thon to Capitol Campaign

LWVMN will not do the Phone-a-thon this year and instead will focus on the newly initiated Capitol Campaign. Susan S. Tucker, Executive Director of LWVMN, stated the Phone-a-thon has had declining revenues the past few years so they are moving on to other endeavors. She further stated donations are down by 30% this year. In early November, LWVMN will mail their Annual Appeal for 2014 year end contribution to all members. We can all look for the letter in the mail from LWVMN and make a generous contribution to support the work of League.

# Observer Reports

## **St. Louis Park City Council** October 6, 2014 Aggie Leitheiser, reporter

All members were present. New members were added to the Environmental & Sustainability and Human Rights Committees. Still looking for Police Advisory, Fire Civil Service and Youth Commissions.

### Public Hearings –

1. Outdoor storage at Tim’s Tree Service. The Board of Zoning Appeals voted to uphold the zoning limitations. Mr. Bell presented his concerns that the storage had been permitted for years. Motion to agree with Board of Zoning Appeals that the area is being used as a contractor yard. Motion passed unanimously with Sanger willing to consider options but would need more study.

2. 2015 Fee Ordinance – no comments

### Resolutions

- 1. Construction Management Plan - updated to include more notification for neighbors.
- 2. Highway 7 and Louisiana Avenue – increased costs due to contaminated material. The total project is \$34 million. All roads should be open on November 15 and the project completed in June 2015.
- 3. (pulled from consent Calendar) MOU re SW Light Rail – it looks different but the content is the same as finalized last summer.

## **St. Louis Park School Board Meeting -** October 27, 2014 Dorothy Karlson, reporter

Eilseen Knisely represented League as she presented information about Kids Voting during the open forum portion of the meeting. In his report, Superintendent Metz told about the good year for athletics this was as they participated in the Metro West Conference. David Howard from Minnesota Insurance Scholastic Trust shared the new insurance plan being offered to school districts in MN and the board approved participation. Jeff Cohen, history teacher at the High School, asked for support for his plan to take fifteen students to Greece for a ten-day trip over Spring break. Permission was granted. Sandy Salin, Director of Business Services, shared the information that the budget is following the plan with no unusual changes from last year. Superintendent Metz and Linda Stanley displayed charts showing that enrollment in St. Louis Park schools continues to grow steadily. Nine new classrooms are being constructed to meet future needs. Open enrollment was stopped earlier than usual this year because of lack of space. 4594 students were enrolled in October 2014, compared with 4552 at this same time last year. Contracts for four district directors were approved.

During the communications and transmittal portion on the meeting, Karen Waters reported on the Reading for Pleasure projects in the schools. Peter Hobart students read 200,000 minutes. "Xanadu" will be presented by High School students on November 14-16 and 21-23.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
Making Democracy Work®

**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  
2049 Utah Avenue South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55426  
952/546-3490  
[2persons@comcast.net](mailto:2persons@comcast.net)



**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

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