



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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October Calendar

October 7 7 pm

Board Meeting – Home of Aggie Leitheiser

October 15 1 pm

Unit 2 Meeting - Tower Light
 Topic: Welcome to SLP

October 18 10 to 12 am

CMAL meeting

Location Woodbury City Hall (8301 Valley Creek Rd.)

October 22 7 pm

Candidate Forum for General Election
 City Hall Council Chambers

October 27 7 pm

Present Kids Vote at School Board
 Location: SLP High School Board

October 28 7 pm

LWV Minnesota Secretary of State Candidate
 Forum - Augsburg College

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 on Immigration Tower Light
 Residence

November 17 7:30 pm

Present Kids Vote to the City Council



**Join us for the 2014 LWV SLP
 District 46 A/B Candidate Forum
 Wednesday September 22 7:00 pm
 St. Louis Park Council Chambers
 City Hall**

District 46A Candidates:

Timothy O. Manthey, Republican
 Ryan Winkler, Democratic-Farmer-Labor

District 46B Candidates:

Bryan P. Bjornson, Republican
 Cheryl Youakim, Democratic-Farmer-Labor

Broadcast live on SLP Cable Channel 17.
 Rebroadcast at later dates and available on the
 SLP City website.

President's Message October 2014

Every day the autumn colors become more pronounced. I am hoping for a month of warm Indian summer weather. I hope you can find time to enjoy the colors!

Following our New Member meeting event, we had four new members sign up. I would like to extend a warm welcome to each our new members. I will reach out to each of you individually over the next month or two. There are opportunities to participate at our local level and at the state level. It is exciting to see good energy in our meetings.

October is a busy month for The League. We put our efforts into hosting candidate forums. The forums are a very important for helping all voters learn about the candidates. The League never supports or endorses a candidate, and we never will. The League does study issues and then advocate for change, as needed. The LWV Minnesota also recommends we ask our legislators about Campaign Finance, Restore the Vote and Redistricting. If you are not able to attend the October 22 forum at City Hall in person, please be sure to watch them on Park TV Channel 17.

A special thank you to Barb Person for organizing the New Member meeting and all Leaguers who brought the delicious salads and desserts; and to Barbara Aslakson for coordinating the first Tower Light meeting. One additional shout out to Eilseen for coordinating the candidate forum.

Deb Brinkman, President
LWV SLP

Highlights from the September 2014 LWV SLP Board Meeting:

- *Barbara Aslakson continues to finalize changes to our Bylaws. The state recommends we take some of the policies and put them in our handbook.
- *Kids Voting is gaining additional support.
- *Unit 2 will meet the third Wednesday at 1 pm at Tower Light
- *The Board reviewed details for the New Member meeting.
- *Eilseen continues to finalize details for our candidate forum.
- *At the MLD meeting, we were reminded to ask people to join the league and also remind them that we are a 501(c) 3 organization.



Worth Noting

Absentee and Early Voting — What's the Difference?

Thursday, July 24, 2014

By Camille Galles,
Taken from LWV Minnesota Blog

In Minnesota, registered voters can vote one of two ways: either with an absentee ballot or in person at a polling place on Election Day. Now that Minnesota no longer requires a reason to vote absentee, absentee voting is being used more heavily and is sometimes being referred to as early voting. But traditional Early Voting, an option currently not available in Minnesota, differs from absentee voting in significant ways.

Early Voting does not require the additional paperwork and time of absentee voting, which requires a separate application. Early Voting uses the same methods and ballots as Election Day voting but takes place at an election office or in satellite voting sites.

33 states utilize early voting, although not all in the traditional sense. In the 21 states that utilize traditional Early Voting, any qualified voter can cast a ballot in person during a designated period prior to Election Day. No excuse or reason is necessary to participate in Early Voting. The other 12 states (including Minnesota) allow a voter to apply in-person for an absentee ballot in a certain period of time before the Election. Although this process involves the extra absentee application step, in-person absentee voters are essentially casting their ballots before Election Day.

In Memorium

Ruth Kronick, a member of our local LWV, died on September 18, 2014. Ruth has been a member since 1968.

Ruth was a consummate volunteer and had many interests. She rejoined when she moved into Parkshore and we had several good years of discussion and friendship renewal. Ruth was 98.



Children First Asset #19 Religious Community

Did you know 60% of St. Louis Park young people spend at least an hour a week in activities at religious institutions?

Attend activities with your children or another young person. Have conversations at home about spirituality.

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

The first steering committee met on September 22. Dorothy Karlson, LWV SLP Project Lead, described activities to date, including formation of the LWV Committee, visit to Edina Schools, visit from the leader of St Paul Schools, study of other schools' plans and visit with Kari Ross and Sara Thompson from St. Louis Park Schools. Kari and Sara led the rest of the meeting. Each person introduced themselves and told about reasons for being there.

The committee discussed tentative goals: Kids Voting in all precincts in 2016 and perhaps a trial in one or two schools in 2015. The feeling of the group was that it would be good to have some voting in the municipal election in 2015 because it is a smaller election and easier to manage. There will be more discussion on how this will take place: in one or two schools, in only some grades, etc. The presidential election year is more complicated because of the large numbers of voters. Our challenge will be to decide how to conduct voting in that circumstance.

There was a discussion about the problems of adding new curriculum and how this can be solved by making changes in the current social studies curriculum and staying within the current expectations.

The committee reviewed pictures of the voting privacy screens, sample ballot, and voting box. They learned about the zip drive, which contains the entire USA Kids Voting Curriculum.

We are looking for more members of the steering committee, especially from school personnel and the religious community. Members were given “homework” that involves ways to get more information about Kids Voting. The next meeting date: Monday, Oct. 20, 1:00 pm at the High School.

LWV SLP invites anyone interested in helping develop this project to call Dorothy Karlson at 952-935-4051.

September New Member Orientation

At the September meeting, members and potential members gathered at Oak Hill Park for an overview of the League of Women Voters St. Louis Park by President Deb Brinkman, a review of the history of accomplishments by Dorothy Karlson, and a presentation of current policy issues by Sherri L. Knuth, Policy and Outreach Manager for LWV Minnesota. The evening also included a picnic and a chance to get to know some of our neighbors. Welcome to the new members!



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

Immigrants Share Personal Stories

11:00 Global Golden Valley

11:55 **Closing**

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

RSVP: Appreciated, but not required at
<http://welcomemyneighbor.eventbrite.com>

Questions: Contact Kim Kang, LWV Wayzata/Plymouth kimdakang@gmail.com

*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)*

Growing Support for Restoring the Vote to Non-Incarcerated Felons

Monday, September 15, 2014

By Sarah Risser, LWV Minnesota member

Restoring voting rights to non-incarcerated felons who are completing terms of parole or probation is an issue that has been steadily gathering support.

In Minnesota, citizens with felony convictions may not vote until they have completed their sentence in its entirety and are no longer under any sort of correctional control. Given that Minnesota has more people on probation or parole than nearly every other state—ranking fourth in the country—this issue takes on a greater sense of importance. Despite having low incarceration rates, nearly 1.5% of Minnesota's population is excluded from the democratic process because of a felony conviction. Within this group fully 75% are living in the community, most likely working and paying taxes.

Each individual state determines whether or when felons may exercise their right to vote, resulting in a diverse array of policies throughout the United States. Two states, Maine and Vermont, do not disenfranchise, allowing felons to vote while incarcerated. Florida, at the opposite extreme, revokes the right to vote permanently. Most states fall somewhere in between, either restoring the vote upon release from prison or after the individual is no longer under correctional control.

State fairgoers were given the opportunity to weigh in on this issue as part of the annual House of Representatives' poll, which, combined with the Senate poll, provides a general, if unscientific, survey on a range of issues that have been discussed in prior legislative sessions and that may be topics of debate again. Results are considered to be a rough indication of where public sentiment lies.

Ballots were cast by fairgoers who visited the House exhibit in the Education Building. Respondents were asked: "...Should the law be changed so a person convicted of a felony regains their right to vote immediately upon release from a correctional facility?" 47.2% of those polled indicated they were opposed to changing the law whereas a smaller, but still considerable, 43.7% supported a change to our current law.

It would be interesting to compare the results should the question be worded differently, to place emphasis on the fact that most felons under correctional control are working hard to reintegrate back into their communities and civic life, often paying taxes and making other important contributions. Or that the United States is a global outlier in both incarceration and disenfranchisement rates, being the only country in the democratic world that systematically disenfranchises large numbers of non-incarcerated offenders.

Regardless of how the question was worded this is an issue that will be increasingly on the radar of civic groups and legislators in the year to come.

News and Highlights from LWVUS

Judge Agrees With LWVOH - Blocks Ohio From Cutting Early Voting (NEW)

On September 4th, a District Court judge ruled that Ohio cannot enforce a new state law for this election that reduced the number of days available for voters to cast absentee ballots by mail or in person. Judge Economus agreed to a preliminary injunction sought by the League of Women Voters of Ohio, and other organizations that effectively restores the full 35 days of early voting prior to the November 4 general election.

League Supports Continuing Office of Congressional Ethics in 114th Session of Congress

LWV joined a letter encouraging party leaders in the U.S. House to continue the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) for the 114th session of Congress. The OCE has played an important role in helping protect the integrity of the House and its members while establishing a record of fair investigations and bipartisan cooperation.

Call with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy

Administrator McCarthy discussed the ongoing work to fight climate change at the national level, including the EPA's Clean Power Plan that limits carbon emissions from power plants. Administrator McCarthy called upon LWV members to continue the dialogue within their own communities and states about the necessity of this groundbreaking regulation and to submit comments to the EPA on this proposal.

Voting Rights Act Turns 49

For 49 years, the Voting Rights Act (VRA) has protected the right to vote regardless of race or language, but legislation to repair damage from the Supreme Court's decision in Shelby v. Holder is currently stalled in the U.S. House. Tell your Representative to stop stalling and move the Voting Rights Amendment Act forward!

LWV SLP Calendar 2014 - 2015
Updated September 4, 2014
Clip and Save

Date / Time	Event	Assigned / Host
October	Candidate Forum	
October 7 7 pm	Board Meeting Location: Aggie's Home	Aggie
October 15 1 or 1:30	Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Welcome to SLP Location: Tower Light	Barbara Aslakson Debbie Blake Barb Person
October 18	CMAL meeting Thrive MSP 2040 Woodbury	Debbie Blake
October 22 7 pm	Candidate Forum for General Election City Council Location: City Hall Council Chambers	Eilseen
October 27 7 pm	Present Kids Vote at School Board Location: SLP High School Board Meeting	Eilseen LWVSLP
October 27 6 pm	MLD Conference Call	Barb Person
October 28, 2014 7 pm	LWVMN Candidate Forum Location: Augsburg	LWVMN
November	General Election November 4	
November 6	Board Meeting Location: Barb Person's Home	Barb Person
November 8 9:30 am - 12 pm	West Metro Meeting Topic: Immigration Location: SLP City Hall	West Metro Rep Barb Person
November 19	Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Immigration	Barbara Aslakson Debbie Blake
November 17 7:30 pm	Present Kids Vote to the City Council Location: SLP City Hall Council Chambers	Aggie and LWV SLP
December	Fund Raising and Lively Issues	
December 4	Board Meeting Location: Dorothy's Home	Dorothy
December 17 1 pm	Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Holiday Social and Lively Issues Location: Tower Light	Barbara Aslakson Debbie Blake Deb Brinkman
December, TBD	Gift Wrapping at Barnes and Noble Bookstore Ridgehaven Mal	Dorothy Karlson
December 18	Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Holiday Social and Lively Issues Location: Deb Brinkman's Home	Deb Brinkman
January	Legislative Interviews	

January 8, 2015	Board Meeting Location: Barbara's home	Barbara Aslakson
January 10 or 24	Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Legislative Interviews Location: Union Congregational Church	Barbara Aslakson Debbie Blake Eilseen Knisely
January 10 or 24	Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Legislative Interviews Location: Union Congregational Church	Eilseen Knisely
January 17	CMAL	Debbie Blake
February	95 th Anniversary of LWV Black History Month	
February 5	Board Meeting Location: Judy's home	Judy Cook
February 18	Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Inclusion "We're All the Same" Location: Tower Light	Barbara Aslakson Debbie Blake Aggie Leitheiser
February 19	Unit 3 Meeting Topic Inclusion "We're All The Same" Location: City Hall	Aggie Leitheiser
March	Women's History Month	
March 5	Board Meeting Location: Eilseen's home	Eilseen Knisely
March 18 1 or 1:30 pm	Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Bees Location: Tower Light	Barbara Aslakson Debbie Blake Barb Person
March 19 7 pm	Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Bees Location: SLP City Hall	Barb Person
March 21	CMAL Topic:	Debbie Blake
March	West Metro Topic: Location:	West Metro Rep: Barb Person
April	LWVSLP Birthday 61	
April 2	Board Meeting Location: Debbie's Home	Debbie Blake
April	Empty Bowls Westwood Lutheran Church	
April 18	61st Annual Meeting Topic: Water or Campaign Finance / Citizens United Location: McCoys	LWV SLP BOARD
April	Career Day at the High School with Karen Waters	Eilseen
May	Celebrate St. Louis Park Kids May 19, 1919 Women's Right to Vote	19 th Amendment

May 7 7 pm	Board Meeting Location: Aggie's Home	Aggie Leitheiser
May 20 1 or 1:30	Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Book Review Location: Tower Light	Barbara Aslakson Debbie Blake Dorothy Karlson
May 21 7 pm	Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Book Review Location: SLP City Hall	Dorothy Karlson
May 23 9:30 coffee 10:00 program	CMAL Annual Meeting Topic: Location:	Debbie Blake
May	Ice Cream Social – Children First Wolfe Park	Deb
May	Scholarship Program SLP High School	Deb
June	Parktaclar June 10, 1963 Equal Pay for Women June 23, 1972 Equality in education and sports	Fair Labor Standards Act Title IX
June 4	Board Meeting Location:	
June 13 -14	LWV Minnesota Convention Location: Duluth	LWVMN
June	Parktaclar	
July	July 1, 1971 – age to vote from 21 to 18 July 2, 1964 – Equal Rights Amendment	26 th Amendment Title VII Employment Equality
July 9	Board Meeting Location:	
August	Getting Ready	
August 6 6 pm	Planning Meeting Location: Deb's Home	Deb Brinkman

Unit 2 has moved. For the time being we will hold our daytime meetings at TowerLight on 3601 Wooddale. We thank them for inviting us to meet there. Our September Get to Know LWV was well attended. There were even a couple of former Leaguers from other states. All LWV meetings are open to anyone, male, female, whether you live at TowerLight or anywhere else. The only requirement is you are interested in issues and the politics of making changes. The meetings are held on the third Wednesday at 1 p.m. There is parking in the back. When you come in the back door, the receptionist will direct you to the meeting room. In October we will concentrate on Knowing Your City and what LWV has had to do with some of the changes over the years.

Contact Barbara Aslakson, harbara08@comcast.net, 952-545-3178 or Debbie Blake, wakokeishadax@gmail.com, 952-920-7793.

Observer Reports

St. Louis Park School Board Meeting - September 22, 2014 7:00PM – 8:30PM **Shelley Colvin – Observer**

Present: All school board members and Superintendent Metz.

No one presented during the Open Forum time.

The Superintendent’s report consisted of the status of construction and remodeling at 3 of the schools.

Athletics update was presented by Athletics Director, Andy Ewald:

- St. Louis Park is now a part of a new Metro West Conference.
- The sport, lacrosse, would change from a club sport to varsity and junior varsity teams. The boys that had been a part of the lacrosse club attended this portion of the school board meeting in recognition and support of this move. It was nice seeing students at the meeting when there was a decision made that affected something that they cared about.
- The theme of the athletic report was- What does the community have to offer our young people that is needed at this time? This informs the programming. At different times, there have been different needs.
- There is also a new academic IB science course on sports, exercise, and health. There are enough students for two sections.

Lisa Greene reported on the summer school programs. The programs went well. There was a short discussion as to whether it is better for students to offer the enrichment courses right after the end of the school year or just before the new one begins.

All action items were approved, including The World’s Best Workforce Plan.

The School News publication will be mailed to households along with a copy of the World’s Best Workforce Plan. One of the items in the School News was the announcement of the hiring of a Somali school liaison. That article was included in both Somali and English. There were some comments that more articles should be presented in more than just English.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.



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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Deb Brinkman, President
 (612) 803-6142
deb.brinkman@gmail.com

Aggie Leitheiser, Editor
 (952) 938-6255
 7614 Edgebrook Drive
 St. Louis Park, MN 55426
aggieleit@comcast.net