



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
Saint Louis Park

VOTER

Calendar Highlights

Our Unit Meeting on 9-15-2016 is at 7:00PM at the St. Louis Park City Hall. Topic: Assessing the Impact of Election Process Claims. It will be Addressed using a TED talk and a discussion. Presented by members Debbie Blake and Lynn Schwartz

Elections, including **Kids Voting**
11-8-2016

What's Inside...

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- Barb's Notes – LWV National Convention
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- Election Calendar
- Join Us at LWVSLP



LWV Mission Statement

LWV, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy

www.lwvslp.org



Hello Fellow Leaguers

We held our Program Planning meeting a couple of weeks ago. An important change from last year is that we decided to merge Unit 2 and Unit 3. Our program meetings will be held at City Hall on the third Thursday of each month. We know that several members need help with rides and we will help accommodate.

I'm happy to announce that Kids Vote is gearing up for another eventful election season. We have confirmed all five schools will participate. The school district will be purchasing the new scanner solution arranged by Amy Anderson at MN Civic Youth. Debbie Blake, Eilseen Knisley and General Election attended the Aquila Welcome Back Night and the Susan Lindgren Welcome Back Night. We reminded parents to vote, and handed out fliers to the parents explaining the program. General Election helped generate some excitement and made some good friends along the way. Dorothy continues to host our League meetings and the steering committee meetings. Thank you to everyone!

Game On! Eilseen and I brought our Civics Game to the Harvest Festival at Central Community Center. Lunch was delicious and the weather was thankfully warm and sunny. The event was well attended. We reminded everyone to vote, handed out I Will Vote stickers and ran through several trivia questions. We measured our success by looking into the crowd to see all the red stickers!

Looking ahead

[September 13 6-7pm](#) Henneping County Commissioner Candidate Forum
at Minnetonka City Hall

[September 15](#): Maddie Colvin, George Beck and Julie Sweitzer will be attending the PSI Open House

[September 15](#): Unit Meeting at City Hall Community Center [7 pm](#) Topic Election Topics Discussion

To all of our Fellow Leaguers who are healing: I hope each day brings you renewed strength and a speedy recovery.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

[Deb Brinkman](#)

President, LWV St. Louis Park

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Educate. Advocate. Reform.



Kids Voting

Deb Stageberg Brinkman, June 20 – Minnesota Virtual Voter

An Election Story Worth Hearing

You may think you've heard it all when it comes to stories about the upcoming presidential election. But there's one story that bears repeating -- the story of thousands of Minnesota students casting a ballot on Election Day as part of the Kids Voting program.

Kids Voting is a community-based, nonpartisan program that combines civic lessons in the classroom with an authentic Election Day voting experience for students in grades K-12. Research shows that students who participate in the program are more responsive to the civic environment, more attuned to political messages and more willing to share their knowledge and opinions with parents and friends. In addition, research shows that practicing civic habits at a young age can support a lifetime of active citizenship.



Each community decides whether to have the students vote at the community-based polling sites or in their school buildings. In most communities, the program is coordinated through the school district or Community Education office with support from local businesses and community organizations such as the League of Women Voters.

In the 2014 election, more than 45,000 students from 50 Minnesota communities cast a ballot as part of the Kids Voting program. This year the goal is to give every student in Minnesota the chance to vote on Tuesday, November 8.

If you are interested in setting up a Kids Voting program in your community, contact Amy Anderson at 651-955-1679 or amy@mncivicyouth.org.



Dorothy Karlson has devoted years to various roles and tasks as a member of the LWV St. Louis Park. Her most recent effort has been to initiate and execute our signature program-

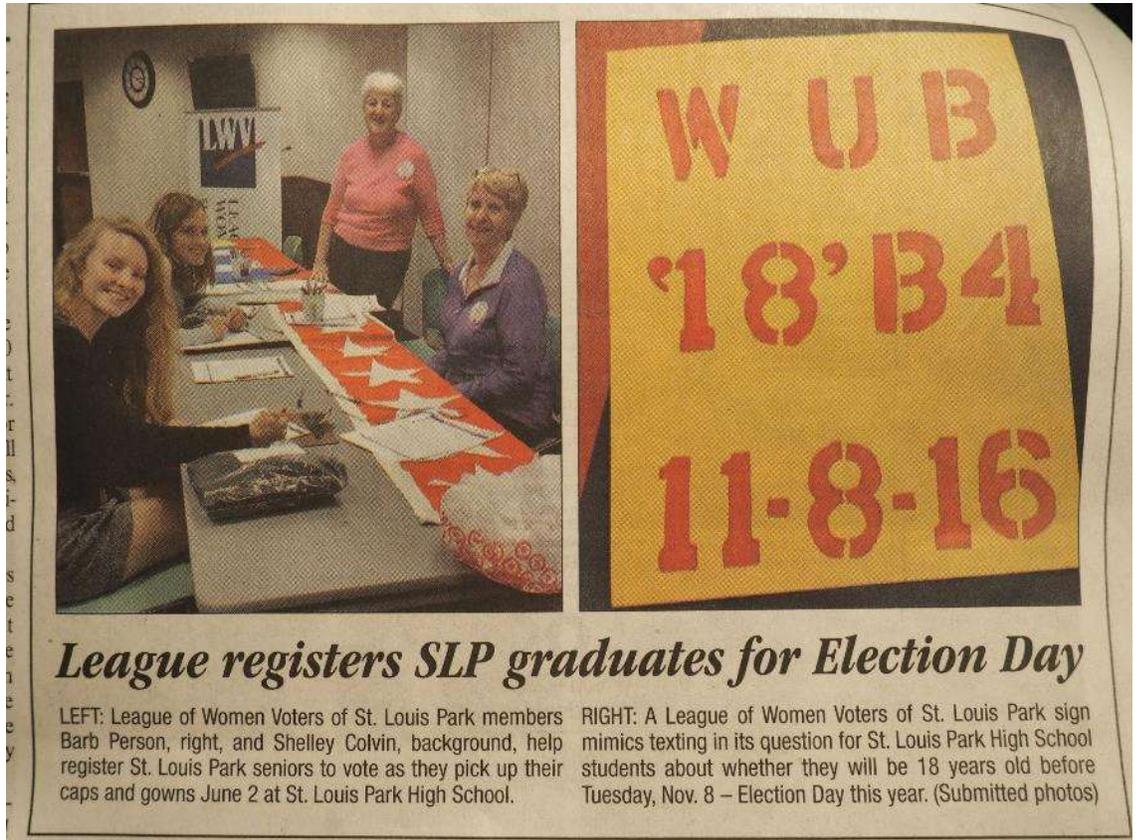
Kids Voting.

In recognition of her service, Deb Brinkman, President, is honoring Dorothy with the Millie Johnson Award. This award is given in recognition of a member's outstanding service.

Annual Meeting 2016



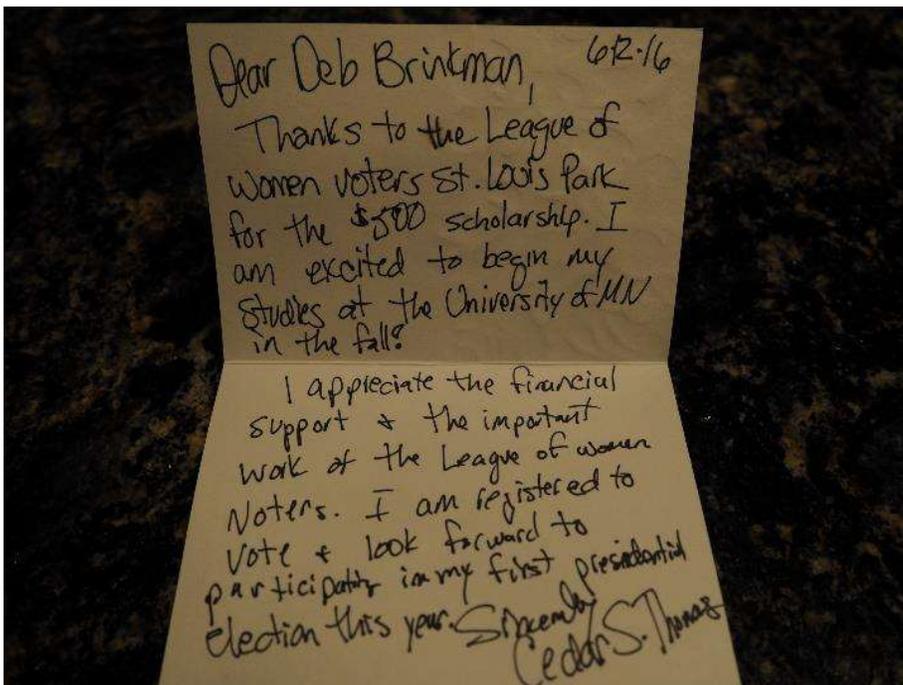
The Sun Sailor -
 St. Louis Park caught us registering high school seniors as they picked up their cap and gown for graduation. They are excited to be graduating. Voting is a rite of passage just as graduation is.



League registers SLP graduates for Election Day

LEFT: League of Women Voters of St. Louis Park members Barb Person, right, and Shelley Colvin, background, help register St. Louis Park seniors to vote as they pick up their caps and gowns June 2 at St. Louis Park High School.

RIGHT: A League of Women Voters of St. Louis Park sign mimics texting in its question for St. Louis Park High School students about whether they will be 18 years old before Tuesday, Nov. 8 - Election Day this year. (Submitted photos)



The League of Women Voters St. Louis Park is very proud to be able to award a scholarship to a deserving senior. One of the things that we look for is a student with civic involvement. Cedar Thomas was the very deserving recipient for 2016. This is a picture of her thank you note. We wish her all the luck in her studies.

LWV US 52nd Biennial Convention 2016

Minnesota has a lot to be proud of – the age limits and citizenship requirement in the national bylaws were significantly changed thanks to the hard work and diligence of LWV Bloomington and LWV Minnesota. One no longer has to be at least 18 years old or a citizen to join. The motion initially wanted no age limits, but the delegates would only accept a minimum of 16 years of age. This is a change that should help LWV be more inclusive and diverse. Watch for more to come on this issue from LWV US and LWV Minnesota.

Friday, June 17th the credentials committee reported that 674 delegates were in attendance, representing 47 states plus the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. Jessica Roloff, LWV Willmar, was nominated to be on the Board as Director of Outreach.

Speakers and notes follow:

- *“ENGAGING MILLENNIALS IN OUR ELECTIONS”*

Jennifer Lawless, Director, Women & Politics Institute, American University
Author of “Running from Office”

Millennials – why are they turned off by politics? In a poll, cockroaches, and colonoscopies were given a higher rating than being a politician. 89% wouldn’t consider running. They’d “rather milk a cow than run for office”. 75% don’t talk about politics with their parents. They dislike politicians and rated them as selfish, egotists and a group that can’t get anything done. 11% admire politicians, and watch TV news.

Men in college are more interested in politics. Men and women in high school are equally interested. So, we need more women’s organizations to connect with women in college. We need to debunk myths about women running for office. Women do get as much media coverage as men, they do get as much financial support as men and have the same or similar experience running for office.

The possible reason for millennial’s attitude is that they have been raised during congressional dysfunction. Some politicians think that high school students should be given a citizenship test before graduating. In Oklahoma, it is estimated that only 3% of the students would pass. More African American students have better attitudes towards politicians than others (white, Hispanic) because of the inspiration of leaders like Barack Obama.

- *“UNDERSTANDING AMERICAN AUTHORITARIANISM”*

Amanda Taub, New York Times reporter and Attorney

What is going on?? The GOP choice for president is surprising but the change in the electorate is more surprising. Authoritarianism (A) is a type of behavior that especially values order and distrusts outsiders and social change. Our country is becoming less white, more urban and has changed its expectations for the future. Those who believe in a high level of A support Trump. The GOP is attracting supporters of A. They are afraid of unfamiliar groups of people and terrorists (ISIS) as a personal matter. They prefer using military force, more punitive actions, and want to limit independence, believing that we should carry a national ID, bar citizenship and have more airport checks. This is a group whose beliefs we’ll all need to consider in the future.

- LWV US PRESIDENT'S OPENING ADDRESS, Elizabeth MacNamara

Carrie Chapman Catt's start of LWV has nearly reached 100 years. The vote is a symbol of equality in the US. "We the people ..." includes only those with the right to vote. She was the President of the Women's Suffrage movement for four years. Her goal as is ours is to make democracy work for everyone.

Redistricting needs to be a priority for LWV. We need to protest, mobilize and stop the abuse of power. We can all follow Catt's history lesson on women's suffrage.

- *PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND EXPANDING THE ELECTORATE*

- ✓ Kristen Clark, President, National Lawyers Committee

36.4% of the eligible voters voted in 2014. This is a shameful number and a direct result of discrimination due to the Supreme Court's gutting of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and the increasing difficulty in registering to vote.

Texas is #1 in discrimination with new photo ID requirements. Student IDs are not sufficient identification, but gun registration qualifies. 600,000 people couldn't vote in 2014.

21% were low income residents. Requiring maiden names of women on driver's licenses, a sexist regulation, kept lots of women from voting.

North Carolina is #2. They took away same day registration, and early voting resulting in incredibly low voter turnout.

We need to protect our democracy with action, recruit more young people to help, promote same day registrations and automatic voter registration and allow felons to vote.

In 2016 the state of Maryland passed felon voting. The governor of Virginia restored rights to felons.

- ✓ Arturo Vargas, Executive Director of National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO)

The NALEO is partnering with LWV US because voting rights are under attack in 19 states that affect 900,000 Latino citizen's ability to vote. 750,000 in Texas may not be able to vote this year. Latinos are making an impact and want to vote. The states of Florida, Nevada and Colorado are trying to keep Latinos from voting. We need to connect with Latino voters. They need to hear that every election is important.

- ✓ Christine Chen, Executive Director of Asian Pacific & Islander American Vote (APIA Vote)

40% of this group have limited English. 37% don't identify with a political party. It is a very diverse community. Local LWVs need to partner with them so they can learn more about the political process.

- LWV US CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S ADDRESS, Wylecia Harris, Executive Director

She was an activist in college, spent 20 years working for the American Nursing Association which led to changing their membership decline to look at structure to remain relevant.

Successful change requires urgency, retaining core essence of the organization, making room for new ways to function. We need a new approach with constituents to achieve new levels of membership. Voters have changed because of new technology.

We need a bias toward action, a plan to be strong and relevant by 2020. The new generation wants to help, be at the table but on their own terms. We need to claim our role by 2020 – we are THE organization that has an authoritative voice on voting reform. This election is very important. Whatever happens, how can we make democracy work? We are needed more than ever.

How do we overcome perceptions that we aren't relevant? We have to strengthen our organization. She has been working on reorganizing to a format of our three core issues: impact, relevance and visibility.

Flexibility? Re-evaluate what it means to be a member. We are having AND conversation, not BUT conversations. Change? We need to increase the speed of change, use alternate engagement strategies. We need to address our structures, our technology and need to reach new audiences. Let's redesign in the next 18-24 months. Then in 2 years we need to take action.

Saturday, June 18th

- *"OUR DEMOCRACY – COMPLEX SYSTEMS AND MAJOR FORCES AT PLAY IN 2016"*
Joe Goldman, President, Democracy Fund Foundation

The Democracy Fund has committed \$30M to organizations to further democracy. They match small donor contributions. A number of groups feel abandoned by political decisions. They feel a sense of betrayal, but we cannot give up on democratic institutions. 46% say America is worse than 50 years ago. 6 out of 10 people are frustrated. 2 of 3 people feel they're on the losing side of outcomes = angry people. Will 2016 be a tipping point?

What helps? Politics or a dictator? Thankfully, our founders chose politics, but lately an authoritarian is being favored. We need to hear that citizens are getting involved and engaged. If cities give funding to citizen groups they get more involved.

LWV needs to fight the idea that facts don't matter. You might want to change the culture of journalism to ask them to call out lies when they hear them. The old model of journalism is on its way out. How can we preserve aspects of it that retain our democracy? Hopefully, we're perceived as a group that brings people together. We need more neutral places. The Democracy Fund also believes in good government.

When you gather people of opposing opinions, they can solve problems. LWV needs to keep that going. “Democracy is like a raft – it never goes down but your feet are always wet. “ “Dictators are like ships, sometimes the captain runs it onto the rocks.”

How should LWVs respond when asked to discuss Hillary Clinton’s candidacy for President? We can respond that we would discuss it if it involved a discussion of women’s suffrage and the right to vote in history.

Drop the idea that we are non-partisan - people don’t understand that. Instead say that we do not support any party or candidate.

- “LEAGUE IMPACT: DATA AND MESSAGING”

- ✓ Messaging for Impact – What Resonates with Voters in 2016
Celinda Lake, President, Lake Research Partners (Polling)

66% of the population think the discourse lately is repugnant in the presidential race. Women are reporting that men are telling them who to vote for. We need to encourage women to vote – get their own information that’s correct.

The Obama approval rating has increased since Trump entered the race. Women and young people are concerned about the economy. Health care decisions are mostly made by women. Women care more about equal pay, health care which is a demographic shift.

Re: GOTV – the technique and message are important. Don’t assume that unmarried people are not registered. African Americans respond better to door to door, churches and electronic ways to register. Lots of people rely on voter guides.

Strong messaging: Remind people how voting works, on Election Day we’re all equal. We get to have our say. We are voting for the next generation. Be positive, not negative. Message solutions, not problems.

Re: Reputation of LWV. People love us more than milk. They want to hear about us more. They love voter guides, that we stand for issues, that we support women starting with suffrage, that we sponsor debates, that we won’t lie to them and that we should be on social media more.

- ✓ Understanding and Telling the Story of Impact for Democracy with Data
Keesha Gaskins, Program Director, Democratic Practice – U.S., Rockefeller Brothers Fund

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund has been a grant maker for 75 years for democracy and transformation. Membership organizations are changing – the challenge is to tell our story with data. How do we tell it? Are we collecting meaningful data?

PLENARY SESSION BUSINESS

- ✓ Bylaws Changes: After much discussion, the US bylaws were changed. The word “citizens” will be changed to “persons” and “at least age 18” to “at least age 16”. These changes were initiated by LWV Bloomington. They brought five young high school women who want to be voting members even though they are not citizens or 18 years old. A number of LWVs praised this change as it addresses inclusion nationally.
- ✓ Budget 2016-18 was adopted. PMP will remain at \$32. It was noted that there was a loss of \$800,000 due to high risk investments, a thin level of staffing and slow reactions to changes in the market. They also cited bad advice from a management counselor and the cost of a new data system. The good news: reserves are starting to recover.
- ✓ Resolutions – 6 were recommended by LWV US.
 - LWV Florida requested a moment of silence and resolved to continue our US position on gun violence. Passed.
 - LWV Florida requested support of the restoration of funding for gun violence research for the CDC. Passed.
 - LWV District of Columbia requested support for statehood for people of DC. 672,000 residents of DC have no representation in Congress. Passed. LWVs need to lobby their senators, ask them to support a bill coming up in November to give statehood to DC.
 - LWV California requested that LWV US consider signing on to an amicus brief with 21 youth plaintiffs from Children’s Trust. (Climate change is accelerating and there’s a need to reduce emissions so that our children will be protected.) Passed.
 - LWV Oregon requested support from US on the ratification of the UN COP21 Paris Agreement to reduce CO2 in US.
 - LWV Washington resolved to work for implementation of an updated EPA science based clean power plan to reduced CO2 to no more than 350ppm by 2100 with a call on the White House to take action. Current levels are 400 ppm.
- Convention in 2018 in Chicago – June 28 – July 1.

My sincere thanks to LWV SLP for supporting my participation at Convention 2016. I had a great time, learned a lot and would encourage you to attend.

Barb Person
LWV SLP Delegate

Several of LWVSLP members attended the Minnesota State Conference on April 30, 2016



Other Activities Over the Summer:

Ice Cream Social- May 15, 2015 (picture on cover page of this newsletter) Put on by St. Louis Park's *Children First*. LWVSLP had a booth where we gave out 'I Will Vote' stickers and played the Spin the Wheel Game with Trivia about St. Louis Park

Dialogues in the Park: Forums Connecting People and Policy – St. Louis Park Library

Mental Health- May 12, 2016

Political Fix- July 28, 2016

SEEDS: Planning for the Environment

Fall Harvest- Tour of Community Gardens, Lunch, Environmental Planning



2016 Election Dates

-  Pre-registration Deadline
-  Primary Election Day - August 9, 2016
-  General Election Day - November 8, 2016
-  Absentee Voting for Primary Election
-  Absentee Voting for General Election

May

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Primary Election

- Election Day is Tuesday, August 9, 2016.
- Absentee ballots are available starting Friday, June 24.
- Pre-registration deadline is Tuesday, July 19 (you can also register on Election Day).

General Election

- Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2016.
- Absentee ballots are available starting Friday, September 23.
- Pre-registration deadline is Tuesday, October 18 (you can also register on Election Day).

Absentee voting: You can vote absentee by mail or in person. Absentee ballots are available 46 days before an election. First, you must fill out an absentee ballot application to receive your ballot.

Minnesota residents can get more voting information at: mnvotes.org
 Minnesota's official voter resource from the Office of the Secretary of State.



August 4th: planning our calendar for next year

LWV St. Louis Park Calendar

Thu Sep 1, 2016

5pm - 7pm

Kids Vote Susan Lindgren Parent Information Night and Ice Cream Social

Video call: Join video call

Where: Susan Lindgren

Thu Sep 8, 2016

7pm - 8pm Board Meeting at Barb's

Tue Sep 13, 2016

6pm - 7pm Hennepin County Commissioner Districts 5 and 6 candidate forum

Where: Minnetonka City Hall Council Chambers

Description:

Doors open 6PM 6:30 Welcome and Park District statements. Candidates from district 1,3 and 5 (which are the only ones up for election) will be invited. No forum, just 2 minute get-to-know-me statements on camera. 6:50 County Commissioner Forum begins. Candidates from Districts 5, 6 and 7 representing W. Henn. Co. will be invited. 8:30 Forum ends. Crowd can mingle in the room and lobby, and pick up campaign lit. 9:00 Doors close Hosted by League of Women Voters Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Hopkins and other chapters (to be announced). Free and open to the public.

Thu Sep 15, 2016**7pm - 8pm Unit 3 Assessing the Impact of Election Process Claims**

Where: St Louis Park City Hall, Minnetonka Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN, United States

Description:

Discussion Debbie and Lynn. The League of Women Voters will take a look at many of the popular election process claims and discuss how legitimate concerns and unfounded allegations can impact our confidence in our democratic process. Come share your views and concerns on Thursday, September 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Louis Park City Hall. Publicize at the high school

Wed Sep 21, 2016**5:15pm - 6pm MLD Conference Call 477-2100 Access code: 470163#**

Where: 477-2100 Access code: 470163#

Thu Oct 6, 2016**6:30pm - 8:30pm Understanding Race and Racism and Your Power as a Voter - LWV MEPH -RSVP**

Video call: Join video call

Where: Glen Lake Activity Center 14350 Excelsior Blvd Minnetonka, MN 55345

Description: RSVP <http://www.lwvmeph.org/>

7pm - 8pm Board Meeting - at Shelley's**Thu Oct 13, 2016****7pm - 8pm Candidate Forum - date to be confirmed****Thu Nov 3, 2016****7pm - 8pm Board Meeting - at Judy's**

Tue Nov 8, 2016

All day Election Day

Tue Nov 17, 2016

7pm - 8pm Unit 3 - How does St Louis Park handle racial disparity risks

Thu Dec 1, 2016

7pm - 8pm Board Meeting - at Betty's

Thu Dec 15, 2016

7pm - 8pm Lively Issues and Holiday Party

Thu Jan 5, 2017

7pm - 8pm Board Meeting - at Eilseen's

Sat Jan 14, 2017

10am - 1pm Legislative Interviews and Chili Lunch

Wed Feb 1, 2017

All day 97th Anniversary of LWVMN

All day Black History Month in February

Thu Feb 2, 2017

7pm - 8pm Board Meeting - at Deb's

Thu Feb 16, 2017

7pm - 8pm Gathering facts to study racial disparities in our criminal justice system

Description: Betty and Shelley - program

Wed Mar 1, 2017

All day Women's History Month in March

Thu Mar 2, 2017

7pm - 8pm Board Meeting - at Elaine Savick's

Thu Mar 16, 2017

7pm - 8pm Racial Disparity in education

Sat Apr 1, 2017

All day LWVSLP Birthday 63

Thu Apr 6, 2017

2pm - 1pm Board Meeting

Sat Apr 22, 2017

12pm - 1pm Annual Meeting

Mon May 1, 2017

All day Celebrate SLP Kids in May



OFFICERS:

President: Deb Brinkman
Vice President: Debbie Blake
Secretary: Open
Treasurer: Judy Cook

Board of Directors:

Kid's Voting: Dorothy Karlson

Social Media: Heidi Stulberg
Voter Service: Eilseen Knisley
Public Relations: Judy Cook
Membership: Barb Person
West Metro Liaison: Barb Person
CMAL Liaison: Shelley Colvin
Voter Editor: Shelley Colvin

**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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St. Louis Park, MN 55426
952/546-3490
barbperson2049@gmail.com



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Address Correction Requested