



VOTER

Calendar Highlights

December Unit Meeting –
Thursday, December 15th 6:00pm
Lively Issues and Holiday Party

December Fundraiser -
Friday & Saturday (16th & 17th)
Gift Wrapping at Barnes and Noble,
Ridgehaven Mall –
All donations will go to a scholarship
for a graduating senior

Legislative Interviews & Chili Lunch
Saturday, January 14, 10:00 – 1:00

What's Inside...

- President's Message
- A 51st State? LWV DC presents an argument for bringing all the rights of statehood to the people of Washington, D.C., including voting
- Community Education Advisory Council -
- Elections, Kids Voting – Results
- *Waking Up White* by Debbie Irving – a Book Review
- Observer Reports
- Calendar
- Join LWV SLP!



Picture is from the candidate forum 10-13-16

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

The election results impact all of us. All new leaders face great challenges. Let's hope 'Democracy For All' is a value that is supported by our new leadership team.

A special 'Thank You' to all of our Kids Voting volunteers. Volunteers include those who worked during Election Day, the steering committee and LWV Team Members. I have heard nothing but positive comments about the experience. Thank you, too, to all of our election judges. I know election judges put in some very long hours, but this a crucial service.

December is our fund raising month. We are signed up to wrap books at Barnes and Noble on Friday, December 16 and Saturday, December 17. Please contact Barb Person if you can spare 2 hours to wrap gifts for a donation to LWV. We use these donations to fund the scholarship that we award to a SLP Senior.

Our December Unit meeting will be a socializing hour followed by a meeting to review the local and state positions. Any recommended changes will be presented at the Annual Meeting. This is also an opportunity to start a briefing paper or study for issues that need more LWV support.

Please keep Dorothy Karson and her family in your prayers. Her daughter just passed away after a long battle with cancer.

Highlights from the December board meeting:

*The District of Columbia Statehood presentation was great. We'll find out if there is anything else we can do to help support their effort. Taxation without representation is a primary violation of democracy.

*Kids Voting did a presentation for the School Board Meeting

*Reviewed plans for the December Unit Meeting.

*Reviewed plans for the January Legislative Interviews

*Discussed options for February's unit meeting for the topic Racial Disparity in our Criminal Justice System

*Reviewed dates and times for the Barnes and Noble fund raising hours

*Discussed options for the April unit meeting

Enjoy the holiday season,

Deb Brinkman

President, LWV St. Louis Park

www.lwvslp.org

Educate. Advocate. Reform.



There is still a need for volunteers to gift wrap on Friday and Saturday, December 15th and 16th, 12pm – 8pm. Contact Barb Person at barbperson2049@gmail.com.

December Unit Meeting: **Lively Issues and Holiday Party**

The meeting and party will be held at the St. Louis Park City Hall. Please bring an appetizer to share. At 6:00pm the meeting will begin with the holiday festivities. This will be followed by the lively issues discussions and consensus. It is interesting to weigh in on what our League considers important.

A 51st State? **“Fixing the Hole in our Democracy: Statehood for DC”**

This program was the LWV SLP unit meeting on 11-19-2016. It was presented by Caroline Petti, member of the LWV DC. Susan Tucker, Executive Director, LWV Minnesota was contacted by Caroline Petti to do a program in Minnesota on the topic of statehood for D.C. All of the Leagues in the metro area were invited. The program was also live-streamed on Park TV Channel 17. LWV SLP provided the venue (St. Louis Park City Hall) and the refreshments.

Caroline presented a powerful argument for statehood using a powerpoint presentation that was full of history, facts and arguments supporting the movement toward statehood. Some of the attendees were skeptical and wondered why this was important. She convinced many of us that the 650,000+ residents of D.C. need to have a vote and be represented in government.

Here's the link to watch “Fixing the Hole in Democracy: Statehood for D.C.”
Scroll forward 15 seconds for the video to start.

<https://youtu.be/eSeMfGXrB7c>

Subsequently, LWV SLP received an encouraging email from Caroline Petti's friend, Josh Burch, to recommend our participation. See his message below.

Hello Minnesota LWVers!

My name is Josh Burch and I'm a friend and neighbor of Caroline Petti. Like Caroline I am passionate about D.C. statehood and I'm excited to hear of your interest in the cause. She asked me to reach out to you

because over the last 4 years I've met with numerous staff of Senator Klobuchar's trying to convince them that it was the right thing to do for her to sign on as a cosponsor to the statehood bill (S. 1688). Despite my best efforts and getting a few friends in and from Minnesota to contact her office we have yet to get her to commit to cosponsoring the bill even though publicly she's said she's inclined to support the issue.

I was born and raised in DC and as a high school student in DC. I met then Senator Paul Wellstone and he and I developed a friendship which resulted in me interning in his Senate office. In a world where heroes are seemingly hard to come by he was one of mine. Since that time I've had an affinity for the people of Minnesota and your strong belief in participatory democracy. Statehood is the vehicle by which the people of DC can finally be full and equal participants in American democracy. Back then I supported DC statehood but didn't do much about it, back then Paul Wellstone was a cosponsor of the DC statehood bill as he too believed that we deserve an equal voice and equal vote in American democracy.

Caroline asked me to reach out to you all to give you any suggestions on how you can help us with Senator Klobuchar. The easiest way to help right now is to send an email to Ben Driscoll (ben_driscoll@klobuchar.senate.gov) and Travis Talvitie (travis_talvitie@klobuchar.senate.gov) and let them know that you want Senator Klobuchar to join Senator Franken and Reps. Ellison, McCollum, Walz and Nolan as cosponsors of the DC statehood bill. Nothing matters more than hearing from constituents directly.

If you're interested in other ways to help with Senator Klobuchar please let me know as I have other ideas but I do believe that first and foremost emails to Ben & Travis will have a profound impact. In order to get her on the bill this Congress the emails need to be sent soon as Congress wants to pass a budget as fast as possible and then go into recess and we cannot add cosponsors during the recess periods.

Thank you all for your support. We truly appreciate and value it.

Josh Burch
202.641.4680

Community Education Advisory Council (CEAC) Meeting

The Kids Voting Team from LWV SLP was invited to attend the regularly scheduled meeting on 11-15-16 as it would be about a discussion of the election by the Minnesota Secretary of State. He was unable to attend, but a very interesting discussion was held on the mood in the schools given the tensions in the greater community. Superintendent Metz was able to provide some of what he was hearing from and experiencing in the schools. The high school uses a mediation process where the students sit down with each other and a discussion is mediated as to what happened and how it can be resolved. This usually eases the tension, but not always. That being said, the tensions are felt by a few, not in the whole student body. Schools do mirror the community at-large. It was interesting to get a unique view on school life.

Elections and Kids Voting

St. Louis Park had an 83% voter turnout! Ward 2, Precinct 7 had a 90% voter turnout! One would like to think that Kids Voting and all of the 'I Will Vote' stickers helped to increase St. Louis Park's participation

Kids Voting was a success! In the last **Voter** there was a plea for more volunteers. The number of needed volunteers was reached and all felt good about helping the young students learn about democracy and the voting process. It was a great hands on project in which the volunteers made a difference. The results were delivered the next day. For those of you who have not seen them on the website, here they are.

A presentation was made at the School Board meeting on 11-28-16 and the consensus was to continue with the program. If the next election was a local election, the learnings on how voting affects our democracy would be a little different.

Official Statement of Votes Cast

Kids Voting St Louis Park, Minnesota, Nov 08, 2016

Page: 1 of 1

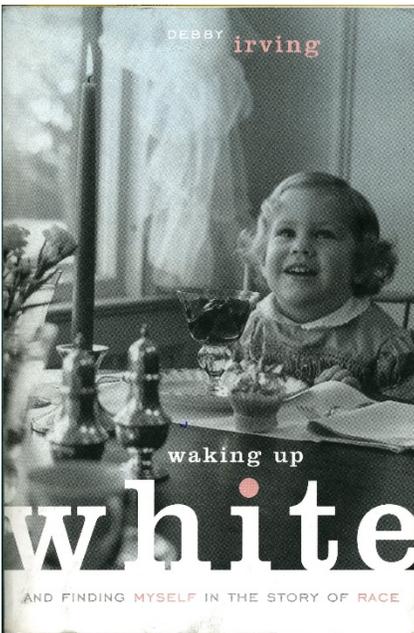
2016-11-08

16:29:55

All Precincts, All Districts, U.S. President & Vice President, U.S. Representative District 5, State
 Senator District 46, State Representative District 46A, State Representative District 46B, Associate
 Justice - Supreme Court 6, Remove Lawmakers' Power to Set Their Own Pay

Total Ballots Cast: 2344

| Choice | Votes | Vote % |
|--|-------|---------|
| All Precincts | | |
| U.S. President & Vice President (Vote for 1) | | |
| Hillary C..Tim Kaine | 1781 | 77.71% |
| Donald J... R. Pence | 271 | 11.82% |
| Jill Stei...e Hawkins | 82 | 3.58% |
| Gary John...liam Weld | 68 | 2.97% |
| Dan R. Va...orth, Jr. | 31 | 1.35% |
| Evan McMu...n Johnson | 30 | 1.31% |
| Darrell C...t Bradley | 11 | 0.48% |
| Alyson Ke...orne Hart | 10 | 0.44% |
| Rocky Roq...Steinberg | 8 | 0.35% |
| Total | 2292 | 100.00% |
| U.S. Representative District 5 (Vote for 1) | | |
| Keith Ellison | 1312 | 63.97% |
| Frank Nelson Drake | 565 | 27.55% |
| Dennis Schuller | 174 | 8.48% |
| Total | 2051 | 100.00% |
| Associate Justice - Supreme Court 6 (Vote for 1) | | |
| Michelle ..MacDonald | 1122 | 58.47% |
| Natalie Hudson | 797 | 41.53% |
| Total | 1919 | 100.00% |
| State Senator District 46 (Vote for 1) | | |
| Ron Latz | 1677 | 100.00% |
| Total | 1677 | 100.00% |
| State Representative District 46A (Vote for 1) | | |
| Peggy Flanagan | 939 | 62.35% |
| Anne Taylor | 567 | 37.65% |
| Total | 1506 | 100.00% |
| State Representative District 46B (Vote for 1) | | |
| Cheryl Youakim | 397 | 78.61% |
| Bryan P. Björnson | 108 | 21.39% |
| Total | 505 | 100.00% |
| Remove Lawmakers' Power to Set Their Own Pay (Vote for 1) | | |
| Yes | 1172 | 61.30% |
| No | 740 | 38.70% |
| Total | 1912 | 100.00% |



Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving is a powerful book about a white woman struggling with her relationships with people who are not white. In the comments on the back of the book, the publisher writes “As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend”. In 2009, after much struggle, she finally discovered that she was working at this issue backwards. She had been trying to help ‘them’ fit in and succeed in what she considered to be normal society. She ultimately came to the conclusion that what needed changing was herself and the way she thought about life in America. She had not been conscious about this, but she was considering white America the default, the normal and that others needed to learn the white, or best, way of doing things.

At the end of each chapter there are discussion questions. One could journal using them as a prompt or one could, in a group, discuss personal stories and thoughts. The opening quote from James Baldwin, “If I love you, I have to make you conscious of the things that you don’t see.” Those of us who are white are socialized into a white race. This race happens to be the one in power. I found myself having ‘aha’ moments while reading the book. I am going to read it again, only this time spending time with the questions posed at the end of each chapter. As I had to really think about my own thoughts and actions and assumptions about the world, I realized how much I had to grow. This growth could only make my life richer.

Reviewed by Shelley Colvin

Observer Reports

City Council – October 17, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. All members were present.

Presentations: The city recognized several donations to the city supporting the Fire Department, Lamplighter Park, the Rec Center and the Forestry Department.

Public Hearings.

1. Hennepin Distilling, LLC dba Copperwing Distillery for an on-sale cocktail room and off-sale micro distillery liquor licenses. The 600 sq. ft. distillery would hold 40 guests, opening its doors in December of this year at 6409 Cambridge Street, an industrial park area. A question was asked regarding the future of the area. Council Member Mavity said she is excited about this proposal and a new winery because they could promote growth in the area to attract young people. Also there will be a light rail stop nearby.

A motion was made to approve the application and passed unanimously.

2. Texas Avenue Rehabilitation Project. City staff presented plans for the proposed reconstruction between Minnetonka Boulevard and Highway 7 which includes replacement of sewer lines and an increase in all modes of traffic including bike lanes. If approved by February 2017 the project could begin in April 2017. Two options for design were shown, both of which would improve safety on Texas Avenue. The balance of the Council meeting was open to a public hearing. 25 people gave their opinions about the project - residents living on Texas Avenue and bikers. The hearing was closed at 9:45 p.m.

The Council voted 5 to 2 to approve the project each expressing their reason for their vote. Those voting for the project support connecting the community with this system.

This observer left at 10:15 p.m. after the Council voted on the Texas Avenue public hearing. It's my understanding that the Council meeting adjourned sometime after 11:00 p.m. A number of other public hearings, resolutions and discussion items can be found in the Council Minutes posted on the City's website.

Barb Person
Observer

School Board - 11-28-16

The November Spotlight:

The Spotlight was the honoring of the three National Merit Semifinalists – Aaron Councilman, Llana Weinstein, and Elise Bargman and one commended scholar – Raphael Gendler. They each recognized and thanked their parents. Each student then presented 3 teachers that have influenced them the most, one from elementary school, one from middle school, and one from high school. Most of those teachers were present. The School Board honors these students every year. It is a high achievement for the students and very moving for everyone involved.

Superintendent Metz presented the book that was just released by Thomas Freidman, *Thank You For Being Late*. Friedman was a graduate of St. Louis Park High School in 1971. The book has autobiographical references and there is a fair amount of material referencing St. Louis Park.

Discussion Items:

Kid's Voting was debriefed by Sara Thompson, Director of Communications, and Eilseen Knisely, a Director on the LWVSLP Board and a member of the Kids Voting steering committee. Sara recommended reviewing the curriculum for content and standardization amongst like grade classes. The question arose as to whether to keep the program. The answer was a resounding yes. At that time it was not discussed as to how much of the program would be done by the schools.

Superintendent Metz presented updates to the state program, "Worlds Best Workforce" in which St. Louis Park participates. Work has been done to align the district strategic plan with the schools' independent plans, and individual and employee plans. A large part of the strategic plan is about closing the achievement gap. The district also wants to assure that the district vision aligns with that of the community. The superintendent is particularly proud that the plan bundles best practices with racial equity work. There is a racial equity coach available for every teacher and are located at all of the schools. The goals for closing the gap are being met over all. There was various benchmark data for grade levels and race that was presented. It was pointed out that a high graduation rate is highly correlated with 9th grade performance.

The highest numbers of St. Louis Park graduates that were attending a college post-graduation were U. of M. - 1st and Normandale -2nd. It was speculated that the high cost of private and out of state schools contributed to the higher rate of public schools for this past year. There were some anecdotal examples.

The Washington Post ranked St. Louis Park school district #4 in the state, but it was questioned as to how valuable rankings can be as they look at such limited factors.

There was a facilities update by Sara Thompson, Director of Communications. All of the facilities are being looked at for 21st century learning. This is in anticipation of a public school bond. When the plan is finished, there will be many opportunities for community communication.

Communications and Transmittals from individual Board members-

Karen reminded everyone to attend the Muddy Paws Cheesecake fundraiser for STEP on 11-29-16 from 4 – 9. Several board members and the superintendent expressed hopes in a nonpartisan way that the new federal secretary of education would keep current education goals and any new ones would benefit all students, including those of the LGBTQ students.

Shelley Colvin

Observer

Human Rights Commission SLP – 10-27-16

The case of the blue “Thank You St. Louis Park Police” signs.

LWV SLP members, Shelley Colvin and Madeleine Hanson-Colvin, attended a meeting that took place at the high school about an issue that some residents were concerned about and others were not even aware of. Jodi Johnson, St. Louis Park resident, created the blue signs, thanking the St. Louis Park police as she thought that it would be a nice gesture. The police had assisted her in the past and wanted them to know that they were appreciated. Everybody at the meeting voiced that they were not unhappy with the local police, but wondered about the timing of the signs given the Black Lives Matter movement and the recent issues involving police and black citizens across the nation. The use of the idea of ‘intent and impact’ was central to the facilitation of the meeting by the Human Rights Commission SLP.

We can come together as a community and talk.

Shelley Colvin
Observer

The Sun Sailor covered the meeting. The article was written by Seth Rowe

Signs thanking St. Louis Park police spread to other communities, as evidenced by signs supporting Eagan, Golden Valley and Bloomington police at the Afton Apple Orchard and Corn Maze in Hastings. Spring Lake Park residents have displayed the signs supporting SLP police since the city shares ...



Published November 3, 2016

<http://sailor.mnsun.com/2016/11/03/signs-thanking-st-louis-park-police-draw-controversy/>



August 4th: planning our calendar for next year

LWV St. Louis Park

Thu Dec 15, 2016

7pm - 8pm Lively Issues and Holiday Party - at Deb's

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Fri Dec 16, 2016

12pm - 8pm Wrap Gifts

Video call: Join video call

Where: Barnes & Noble, 13131 Ridgedale Dr, Minnetonka, MN 55305, USA

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Sat Dec 17, 2016

12pm - 8pm Wrap Gifts at Barnes and Nobel

Video call: Join video call

Where: Barnes & Noble, 13131 Ridgedale Dr, Minnetonka, MN 55305, USA

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Thu Jan 5, 2017

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

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Sat Jan 14, 2017

10am - 1pm Legislative Interviews and Chili Lunch

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Wed Feb 1, 2017

All day 97th Anniversary of LWVMN

Wed Feb 1, 2017 - Thu Feb 2, 2017

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

All day Black History Month in February

Wed Feb 1, 2017 - Thu Feb 2, 2017

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Thu Feb 2, 2017

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

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Thu Feb 16, 2017

7pm - 8pm

Gathering facts to study racial disparities in our criminal justice system - Just Mercy

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Description:

Judy will see if she can find someone to interview Just Mercy Book Discussion - Shelley is willing to lead a book discussion

Wed Mar 1, 2017

All day Women's History Month in March

Wed Mar 1, 2017 - Thu Mar 2, 2017

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Thu Mar 2, 2017

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

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Thu Mar 16, 2017

7pm - 8pm Racial Disparity in education

Where: SLP City Hall

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Description:

Eilseen and Shelley Karen Waters will come speak to tell us what they are doing at the high school.

Sat Mar 18, 2017

10am - 11am CMAL Topic: Man Made Disasters

Video call: Join video call

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Sat Apr 1, 2017

All day LWVSLP Birthday 63

Sat Apr 1, 2017 - Sun Apr 2, 2017

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Thu Apr 6, 2017

7pm - 8pm Board Meeting - need a host

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Thu Apr 20, 2017

7pm - 8pm LWV Unit 3 Meeting - topic tbd

Video call: Join video call

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Fri Apr 28, 2017

12pm - 1pm Legacy Luncheon

Video call: Join video call

Where: Normandale College

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

6pm - 7pm Social Event

Video call: Join video call

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Sat Apr 29, 2017

12pm - 1pm LWVMN State Convention

Video call: Join video call

Where: Normandale College

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Mon May 1, 2017

All day Celebrate SLP Kids in May

Mon May 1, 2017 - Tue May 2, 2017

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Thu May 4, 2017

7pm - 8pm Board Meeting - need host

Video call: Join video call

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Sat May 20, 2017

12pm - 1pm Annual Meeting

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Description: Host at Dorothy's again Sandwiches and Salads

**OFFICERS:**

President: Deb Brinkman

Vice President: Debbie Blake

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Judy Cook

Board of Directors:

Betty Shaw: Observer Reports

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)**

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single active Attending Member | \$55.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting/Member-at-Large | \$60.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership (2 or more in single household) | \$70.00 |

**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
barbperson2049@gmail.com



Deb Brinkman, President
lwvslp@gmail.com

Shelley Colvin, Editor
lwvslp@gmail.com

Address Correction Requested