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Voter

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October Calendar

- October 3, 2013 7 pm**
LWV SLP Board Meeting
Location: Eilseen's home
- October 9, 2013 – 12:30 pm**
Unit 2 Meeting
Topic: Changed to: Current Events
Location: Parkshore Card Room
- October** Unit 3 Meeting Cancelled – it will be rescheduled for later in the year
- October 15, 2013 – 7 pm**
School Board Candidate Forum
Location: City Council Chamber
- October 22, 2013 – 7 pm**
City Council Candidate Forum
Location: City Council Chamber
- October 26, 2013 -- 9:30 to 11:30 am**
CMAL Quarterly Meeting
Topic: Taxes in Minnesota
Speaker: Jay Kiedrowski
Location: St. Louis Park City Hall, 3rd Floor

Upcoming Events

- November 7, 2013 7 pm**
* LWV SLP Board Meeting at Dorothy's home
- November 9, 2013**
* West Metro meeting
Topic: LWV C-3 Reorg, social media, Capital Campaign
Location: Plymouth City Hall
- November 13, 2013 – 12:30 pm**
* Unit 2 Meeting "What's Being Done to Preserve Your Voting Rights"
- November 21, 2013 – 7 pm**
* Unit 3 Meeting "What's Being Done to Preserve Your Voting Rights"



Candidate Forums

October 15 (School Board) and 22 (City Council)

Join fellow LWV members and community citizens to meet and learn about school board and city council candidates. The candidate forums will be at 7 pm at the City Council chambers. They will also be broadcast live and available on the St. Louis Park website until the election. (<http://www.stlouispark.org/>)

Prepared questions and questions from the audience (including the TV audience) will be addressed by candidates.

President's Message September 2013

Last Saturday, September 21, the sun was shining, it was nice and warm. Our local League participated in the annual National Registration by setting up a table at Sam's Club. We handed out more than 20 voter registration forms, and a few people stayed to complete them while we were there. We saw many smiles, heard greetings in multiple languages and received several comments supporting League's "good work". In the last 5 minutes, one young Sam's Club worker who stopped by was very hesitant to register to vote. Encouraged by Eilseen and his friend, he reviewed the application and finally agreed to send it in. Each vote counts.

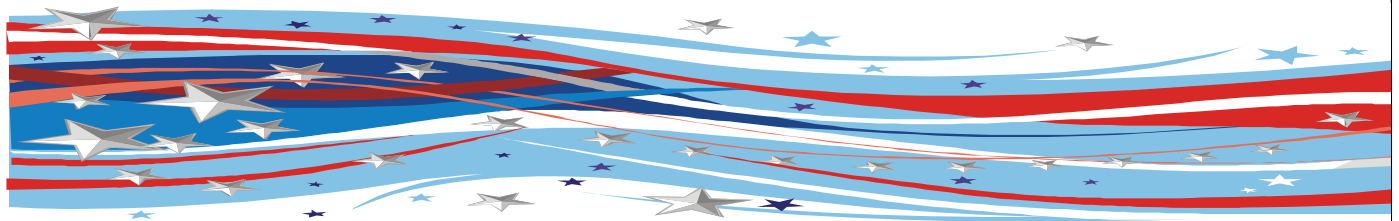
Please support our Voter Service team, Eilseen and Carlota. They are very busy coordinating the Voter Candidate Forums and looking for questions for the candidates. Feel free to submit a question to them or view the candidate forum on Channel 17 and email them to rdunlap@slp.org.

We are also working on an article for the St. Louis Park Magazine. We are scheduled to have our "Then and Now" article appear in the November issue. The article will highlight our November meeting.

I hope you are able to find a first row seat for the upcoming autumn colors. I just noticed the first orange colored maple leaves of the season.

Deb Brinkman, President

LWV SLP



Highlights from the September 2013 LWV SLP Board Meeting:

- * Continued to prepare for the St. Louis Park Magazine. The photo shoot is scheduled for Tuesday September 17 at City Hall.
- * Confirmed we are prepared for the September meeting.
- * Reviewed plans for the November meeting.
- * Reviewed plans for the Voter Registration events at Sam's Club on September 21 and at Tower Light on October 1.
- * Confirmed dates and times for the Candidate forums: October 15 at 7 pm School Board and October 22 at 7 pm City Council.
- * West Metro has planned three meetings: November 9 will cover the C-3 reorganization, social media and capital campaign.
- * LWV Minnesota is offering training in Parliamentary Procedure and a workshop for Candidate Forum and Moderator training.

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Worth Noting

Important Links

<http://www.lwvmn.org/page.aspx>

League of Women Voters Minnesota

<http://www.lwv.org/>

League of Women Voters United States

<http://www.lwvslp.org>

League of Women Voters St. Louis Park

Thank you letter from 2013 LWV SLP Scholarship winner

Dear League of Women Voters,

My name is Hemraj Nimnauth and I want to say thank you for awarding me five hundred dollars to put toward my assisting me in my journey through college. I will most likely use the money for books. I will be attending Wartburg College and I plan to major in History and Education. I also want to be a high school history teacher. I never really got a chance to explain how or when I plan to go into politics. After college I want to join the military and put a couple of years there to save some money, get some financial help with school so that I have something to fall back on. Then I want to be a teacher for a while and then run for mayor or even find other ways to make a difference in society that involves politics. I want to be involved in politics because I see all the injustice and problems in society yet at the same time I see all these politicians and rich people who seem to have the money and power to do something about it yet they choose not to. I know there are people who are trying but we need more people to try and we need someone who is for the common people, who stands up and is willing to fight for what he believes in and fight for those who cannot fight for themselves and want to be that person. Overall thank you for your contribution and I will make you proud.

Yours truly,

Hemraj Nimnauth

Why I joined the League of Women Voters:

My friend and neighbor Nancy Pascoe invited me and treated me to my first year membership. LWV had me at "hello". Debbie Blake

Children First Asset #9

Service To Others - Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.

Did you know 51% of St. Louis Park young people volunteer in the community at least one hour a week?

Volunteer as a family to demonstrate the importance of serving others. Look for opportunities for youth to help others through organized programs by helping a neighbor or other relative.

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Topic: "Current Events and League Positions"

For more information, contact Barbara Aslakson at 952-545-3178

The originally scheduled topic of water quality and quantity will be addressed at a future meeting.

Unit 3 October meeting

NOTE: The Unit 3 October meeting has been cancelled and will be rescheduled. The topic of water quality and quantity will be addressed at a future meeting.

Join other LWV SLP members and the public at the City Council and School Board candidate forums – more details on page 1

Muriel Miller Memorial Workshop I



BASICS OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

or

HOW TO BE PART OF A GREAT MEETING!

Saturday, November 2, 2013

Lakeside Homes Residents Room,
1200 Foss Rd, New Brighton 55112

Instructors: [Ginny Altman, PRP](#), and [Pat Reymann, PRP](#)

8:30 am

Check-In; Muffins, Coffee, Tea, and Juice

9 am-1 pm

Basic Instruction in and Practice of Parliamentary Procedure

Cost: \$20

For more information, contact Pat at [651.454.4702](tel:651.454.4702) or patreymann@comcast.net

Please register by Wed., October 30th.

Send \$20 to Pat Reymann, 526 Chapel Lane, Eagan MN 55121

Checks may be made out to **ST. PAUL UNIT of NAP**

Highlights from the September LWV SLP Unit Meetings:

Sean Walker, SLP Senior Planner

The visioning process included more than 1,000 residents. One of the main goals was to make St. Louis Park more walkable. The plan includes 1/4 mile of sidewalks and 1/2 mile of bike trails and 3 bridges. The plan will be executed over 10 years and will not need to be funded using special assessments. The first year was funded from the General funds. Bonds will be issued for the next couple of years. Many residents may initially oppose sidewalks, but enjoy them after they are installed. Community sidewalks connect neighborhoods and public locations. They will continue to be maintained by the city. Many of the sidewalks are being built during construction. There is a requirement for any new subdivision to include sidewalks.



Sean Walker and LWV members



Lynne Carper, Charter Commission

Lynne Carper, Charter Commission Chair

The City Charter is online. Its function is similar to the constitution of the United States and describes what our city can and cannot do

St Louis Park History

- 1855-- Farmers moved in to a village called Elmwood
- 1858 -- Minnesota became a state
- 1886-- Elmwood had a population of 350 residents. Residents petitioned to incorporate the Village of Elmwood to St. Louis Park. The purpose of the name change was influence to get a train stop. The original depot is at Jorvig Park.
- 1889 -- The first taxes were assessed and ordinances passed to prevent loitering, transients and bawdy houses.
- 1940 and 1949-- the charter was rejected. The trustees were against the charter because they would lose their power.
- 1952 -- Charter ballot was approved with the help of the lobbying efforts from the League of Women Voters.

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control and leeway. A statutory city gets its power defined from

as necessary. They review laws that have changed that may need to be included in the Charter. Any changes to the charter need to be approved by the City Council. If we want to use ranked choice voting, the Charter Commission would coordinate the research needed to identify the benefits and impacts. For example, Ranked Choice Voting would eliminate the cost of the primary election but would have to be hand counted or we may need to purchase new voting machines.

Notice of an open Charter Commission position will be listed on the city web sites. If you would like to participate on Commission, you need to fill out a form with a letter of application. A judge will review the applications and notify the applicants if they have been accepted. Notice of an open Charter Commission position will be listed on the city web sites. If you would like to participate on the Commission, you need to fill out a form with a letter of application. A judge will review the applications and notify the applicants if they have been accepted.

Lynne holds a position on the Planning Commission, too. Their philosophy is to 'control reasonable growth'.

Members reviewed a proposal for a new development project for the Chili's site at the West End. It will include 158 rental units and be 6 stories high. The Planning Commission serves as an advisory committee. The City Council will review and vote to approve the plans.

LWVMN helps register new citizens at Citizenship ceremonies. If you are able to help at the October ceremony, please contact jastuthman@aol.com The next ceremony is Wednesday October 16 at the William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. Ceremonies begin at 10 AM & 2 PM. We begin at 9 AM & 1 PM.

In Memorium

One of our Parkshore members died recently.

Ruth Halverson died August 31, 2013. Born July 26, 1916 that made her 97. She stated that she didn't have time to die. Ruth came to every meeting with a typed sheet of her thoughts on the subject to be discussed. A list of questions was on that sheet, too. If the speaker didn't answer them all satisfactorily, Ruth wasn't shy about asking them.

She was a very strong advocate for voting rights and was in the LWVMN video produced about that subject.

Ruth and I shared a passion - quotes! Her family had a big bowlful of her favorite quotes and suggested we dig our hands in and take away something that Ruth would like us to know or ponder on.

Here is the one that I pulled out of the bowl:

The great thing about getting older is that you don't lose all the other ages you've been. ~Madeleine L'Engle

Barbara Aslakson

LWV United States

League of Women Voters: States Must Develop Secure Online Voter Registration that Serves All Eligible Voters

Washington, DC – In a [statement](#) submitted before the final public hearing of the [Presidential Commission on Election Administration \(PCEA\)](#), the League of Women Voters of the United States urged the commission to improve the polling place experience so that all eligible citizens can become active participants in our electoral process.

Major improvements in election administration would let voters know that they are the central actors in our nation's democratic system, just as customers are central to any business enterprise, Elisabeth MacNamara, national League President stated.

Accurate, up-to-date voter registration lists are key to efficient management of the polls and to ensuring that voters are not faced with confusion, long waiting times and excessive numbers of provisional ballots, MacNamara said.

Chief among the League's [recommendations to the PCEA](#) was a call for all states to develop and implement secure online voter registration systems that serve all voters. While the League is encouraged that 15 states have begun to upgrade their voter registration systems, we must do all we can to be sure that these programs are designed for all eligible citizens, MacNamara said.

Unfortunately, many states currently restrict online voter registration to those who have a driver's license, which means that millions of eligible voters, particularly younger citizens who already are disproportionately unregistered, cannot register or update their registrations online. Not only does this limitation substantially reduce the effectiveness of online registration, it also raises concerns about the discriminatory effect. ([LWVUS PCEA statement](#))

The League outlined four additional key areas that election officials could implement to significantly improve the polling place experience for voters including:

- permanent and portable statewide voter registration,
- expanded early voting,
- improved polling place management, and
- electronic streamlining.

The PCEA is co-chaired by attorneys Robert Bauer and Ben Ginsberg. When President Obama gave his acceptance speech on election night 2012, he pointed to some of the challenges that voters faced when casting their ballots earlier that day, saying "we have to fix that." The President later appointed this commission to examine the problems and propose solutions, particularly those that could be adopted at the state and local levels. The commission is to report this year on its recommendations.

Preview: *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*

By: Jessica Jones 09/11/2013

The U.S. Supreme Court is set to begin hearing cases in its fall term next month. On the second day of arguments, a case that has been labeled the [next *Citizens United*](#) will be heard by the Justices. The case, [McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission \(FEC\)](#), challenges aggregate spending limits that are imposed on individual donors in order to prevent corruption and the appearance of corruption. To understand the full effect that this case could have on campaign finance, it's important to understand what limits are currently placed on individual donor contributions.

In the 1970s, Congress passed and amended the [Federal Election Campaign Act \(FECA\)](#). The legislation was introduced following the corruption during the 1972 election season. FECA established contribution limits for individuals and disclosure requirements for federal candidates, political parties and political action committees as well as contributors. It also established the [FEC](#) as the governing body for enforcement of these limits. [The League lobbied intensively for FECA and worked to defend the law in the courts.](#) Throughout this time and since, the League has advocated that limits to the size and type of contributions from all sources are an essential means to combat undue influence and corruption in the election and governing processes.

Individuals can donate \$2,600 per election to a federal candidate, \$32,400 to a national party committee and up to \$5,000 to a non-party political action committee (PAC). But in addition, there is [an aggregate contribution limit](#) of \$123,200 on the total amount that an individual can donate to candidates and party or non-party political committees over a two-year period. Contribution limits were established to block corruption from large gifts of money to particular candidates and to avoid creating a funnel system through which large amounts of money from a single person could be distributed from PACs or party committees to individual candidates.

Removing the aggregate limits on contributions would allow an unlimited amount of money to be contributed by one person to federal candidates. And it would allow an office holder or candidate to solicit an unlimited contribution for distribution to a number of candidates. Thus, the contributor would gain broad influence and the recipient would be beholden due to the unlimited gift. More money, more influence. Thus, the [McCutcheon v. FEC](#) case will have a large impact even though it deals with a technical and arcane matter of campaign finance law.

The League has joined [an amicus brief](#) in this case. The brief argues two basic points. First, overturning the aggregate limit would ignore the real world effects that abolishing the limits would



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ould essentially allow individuals to donate millions of ... and corrupt our political system. Second, abolishing ... and PAC systems to become a funnel for candidates across the country and circumvent the other existing limits.

The League will continue to be active at all levels of government to protect our political system from big-money corruption and to ensure that the voices of voters across the country can be heard. We will continue to update our website with information on this case. Check out our work on [Money in Politics](#) for the most up-to-date information regarding this case and other actions being taken on campaign finance issues.

Observer Reports

St. Louis Park School Board Meeting September 23, 2013 Reporter- Dorothy Karlson

The spot light was on Kari Ross, the new Director of Teaching and Learning. She was welcomed by Superintendent Rob Metz. Superintendent Metz gave a report about the construction of two new rooms being added on to Peter Hobart School.

The Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement was presented. The tests currently used by the district were explained. District wide proficiency rates in reading are all higher than the state average at all grade levels. There is a team approach to increasing scores where they are lower than is considered acceptable.

Sara Thompson, Manager of Communication, presented information about the upcoming referendum. Public meetings are scheduled and information will be sent to each household in St. Louis Park.

There was a first reading of three policies, Equal Educational Opportunity, Out of State travel by School Board, and Equal Employment Opportunity. Each policy has a first reading, a second reading and an affirmation.

Sandy Salin, Director of Business Services, gave a preliminary report on the Levy for 2014. The proposed levy for taxes payable in 2013 is \$22,976,996.51, a 3.64% decrease from the prior year.

Resolutions were passed to conduct business as usual on Christopher Columbus Day, 10/14/13, and to change a meeting date from November 11th to the 12th in honor of Veteran's Day.

Among communications and transmittals were comments about the homecoming parade, early childhood screening, the League of Women Voters forum for school board candidates, and Park-Tober Fest.

Clip and Save!

October		
October 3, 2013	Board Meeting Location: Eilseen's home	Eilseen Knisely
October 9, 2013 12:30 pm	Unit 2 Meeting Topic: "Water, Water Everywhere?" Aquifers, Watersheds, and Minnehaha Creek Location: Park Shore Card Room	Barbara Aslakson / Aggie Leitheiser
October 17, 2013	Unit 3 Meeting Cancelled	Barbara Aslakson / Aggie Leitheiser
October 2013	CMAL meeting	Debbie Blake
October 15, 2013	Candidate Forum for Candidate Forum for General Election School Board Location: City Hall Council Chambers	Eilseen Knisely/Carlota Medus
October 22, 2013	Candidate Forum for General Election City Council Location: City Hall Council Chambers	Eilseen Knisely/Carlota Medus
October 26, 2013 9:30 to 11:30	CMAL Quarterly Meeting Topic: Taxes in Minnesota, Speaker: Jay Kiedrowski Location: St. Louis Park City Hall, 3rd Floor 5005 Minnetonka Blvd	CMAL/Debbie Blake
November	General Election November 5	
November 7, 2013	Board Meeting Location: Dorothy's home	Dorothy Karlson
November 2013	West Metro Meeting St. Louis Park City Hall Council Chambers	West Metro group
November 13, 2013 12:30 pm	Unit 2 Meeting & membership drive Topic: "What's Being Done To Preserve Your Voting Rights" Location: Parkshore Card Room	Carlota Medus/ Judy Cook
November 21, 2013 7 pm	Unit 3 Meeting & membership drive Topic: "What's Being Done To Preserve Your Voting Rights" Location: City Hall	Carlota Medus / Judy Cook
November	Attend City Council meeting Location: City Hall	Judy Cook
November 9, 2013 9:30 to 11:30 am	West Metro meeting Topic: 501 C-3 reorganization, social media and capital campaign Location: St. Louis Park City Hall	Barb Person
November 2013	Phonathon 6 pm dinner; 7 to 9 phone calls	Barb Person

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	Barnes and Nobles	Dorothy Karlson
		Aggie Leitheiser
	Location: Aggie's home	
December 11, 2013 12:30 pm	Unit 2 Meeting Topic: English Language Learners Challenges/Opportunities in SLP Location: Parkshore Card Room	Barb Person
December 19, 2013 7 pm	Unit 3 Meeting Topic: ELL Challenges/Opportunities in SLP Location: City Hall	Barb Person
January		
January 2, 2014	Board Meeting Location: Judy's home	Judy Cook
January 9, 2014 12:30 pm	Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Lively Issues/Program Policy review Location: Parkshore Card Room	Deb Brinkman
January 16, 2014	Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Lively Issues/Program Policy review Location: Deb's Home	Deb Brinkman
January 25, 2014 9:30 to 11:30 am	West Metro meeting Topic: How a law is implemented in Minnesota Location: TBD	Barb Person
January 2014	CMAL Topic: Location:	Debbie Blake
February		
February 14, 2014	94th anniversary of LWV	
February 6, 2014	Board Meeting Location: Barb's home	Barb Person
February 12, 2014 12:30 pm	Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Impact of Crime in SLP Location: Park Shore Card Room	Barbara Aslakson
February 15, 2014	Unit 2 and Unit 3 Legislative Interviews (Invite Hopkins/GV) Location: Union Congregational Church	Eilseen / Carlota
March		
March 6, 2014	Board Meeting Location: Carlota's home	Carlota
March 12, 2014 12:30 pm	Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Katie Rodriguez Met Council Location: Park Shore Card Room	Barb Person
March 2014	CMAL	Debbie Blake
March 20, 2014	Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Katie Rodriguez Met Council Location: City Hall Westwood Room	Barb Person
March 22, 2014	West Metro Meeting Topic: LWVUS Study on Agriculture Location: TBD	Barb Person

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	VSLP Birthday	
		Eilseen Knisely
April 17, 2014	Topic: Location: Park Shore Card Room 60th Annual Meeting Topic: John Basil – SLP Visitor Center Location: tbd	Music – Barbara Aslakson LWVSLP Board
May	Celebrate St. Louis Park	
May 1, 2014	Board Meeting Location: Judy's home	Judy Cook
May 14, 2014 12:30 pm	Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Book Club Location: Parkshore Card Room	Dorothy Karlson
May 2013	CMAL Annual Meeting	Debbie Blake
May 15, 2014	Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Book Club Location: City Hall Community Room	Dorothy Karlson
June	Community Outreach	
June 5, 2014	Board Meeting Location: Deb's home	Deb Brinkman
June 2014	Parktacular	Carlota Medus
July	Fun	
July 10, 2014	Board Meeting Location: Judy's home	Judy Cook
July 2014	Picnic and Concert in the Park	Judy Cook
August	Getting Ready	
August 6, 2012	Planning Meeting	Deb Brinkman

Top Ten Save Water Slogans

1. A drop of water is worth more than a sack of gold to a thirsty man.
2. Don't let the water run in the sink, our life's on the brink!
3. Water = Life, Conservation = Future!
4. When you conserve water, you conserve life!
5. Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink. Just think about it.
6. You are 60% water. Save 60% of YOURSELF.
7. We never know the worth of water till the well is dry. Save Water!!
8. SAVE WATER – Don't waste the world's blood.
9. Walk in the desert, you will realize the cost of Water.
10. Waste water today – Live in desert tomorrow



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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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LWV SLP OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2013-14

OFFICERS:

President: Deb Brinkman
Vice President: Judith Cook
Secretary: Rosemary Ruffenach
Treasurer/W. Metro: Barb Person
Observer: Dorothy Karlson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Voter Service: Eilseen Knisley
Voter Service: Carlota Medus
Membership: Judy Cook
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 (Dues and subscriptions are not tax deductible.)

- First Year Introduction Special \$25.00**
- Voter Subscription Only \$10.00
- Single Active Attending Member \$45.00
- Supporting/Member-at-Large \$50.00
- Family Membership (household) \$70.00
- Add me to The Voter eMail Distribution List (free)

Make checks payable to LWV SLP

Send your check and this form to:
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4010 Highwood Road
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
Jcook422@comcast.net
(952-928-9846)



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