



# Voter

## Inside

President’s Message ..... pg 2

Worth Noting..... pg 3

LWV MN..... pg 4

Ranked Choice Voting.....pg 6

Take Action .....pg 7

Pay Equity.....pg 8

Nomination Committee .....pg 9

Annual Meeting ..... pg 10



## March Calendar

- March 1 7:00 pm LWVSLP Board Meeting at Aggie Leitheisers  
\*\*\*
- March 9 12:30 pm LWVSLP Unit 2 meeting  
Parkshore Senior Campus,  
3663 Park Center Blvd  
Topic: Light Rail and Freight Update  
\*\*\*
- March 17 7:00 pm LWVSLP Unit 3 Unit 3 Meeting  
at Judy Cook’s  
Topic: Light Rail and Freight Update  
\*\*\*
- March 26 10 am West Metro  
City of SLP City Hall  
Topic: Panel on Photo I.D. for Voters

### Upcoming Events

- April 5 7:00 pm LWVSLP Board Meeting at  
Debbie Blake’s  
\*\*\*
- April 16 10:00 am Annual Meeting  
Minneapolis Golf Club

### March Unit Meetings Topic: Rail Update



Speaker: Lynne Carper

Lynne has been involved in the rail issue since 1993-4 when he was President of the Lake Forest homeowner’s association and the railroad task force wanted a representative.

Lynne will present an overview of the history and status and what is being proposed as options and the mitigation efforts for the freight rails.



### Empty Bowls March 3 St. Louis Park Rec Center

### Mark your calendars for Empty Bowls!

It will be held on Thursday, March 3rd, for both lunch and dinner. The place will be, as always, the Rec Center. **Volunteer** to help at the donations table by calling Dorothy Karlson ([952-935-4051](tel:952-935-4051)). Support STEP by attending this exciting community event.

## President's Message

The turmoil we are seeing about governance across the country and across the world highlights the importance of the work of the League. We help voters be informed about events and issues that affect their lives and to assure access to voting rights. I've seen several articles recently that debate whether voting is a privilege or a right. We need to continue our efforts to oppose the creation of unnecessary barriers to our citizen's right to vote.

The February meetings on Ranked Choice Voting with Carol Rudy of FairVoteMN was engaging and educational. We also learned that this is the method the Academy Awards use to select the winners so that there is at least a little over 50% approving the final Oscar winner. New voting machines will make this method of counting votes and reviewing first, second, third or more choices in order to determine which candidate has 50% plus one vote. At this point, the system is being used by municipalities with ongoing discussion about how it might work for statewide contests. It clearly would avoid the delay and disruption of a recount process.

I hope you are making plans to join us for the Annual meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>. There's additional information elsewhere in this newsletter. Maybe by then we will see a few blades of green grass!

*—Aggie Leitheiser, LWVSLP President, 952-938-6255*

## February Board Meeting Highlights

Highlights of the January Board meeting

- \* Our bank balance holds pretty steady – meaning our income and expenditures are balanced and we have funds to support activities of our group.
- \* We currently have 31 paid members
- \* Reviewed January legislative interview meeting - thanks to Rep. Simon for an interesting discussion
- \* Discussed plans for February programs: (Ranked Choice Voting) and March (Light/Heavy Rail)
- \* Decided on the Minneapolis Golf Club for Annual meeting location. Reviewed agenda and materials
- \* Noted upcoming events: CMAL on March 19; West Metro on Photo ID on March 26; Convention on May 21



**Worth Noting**

**Voter Service Board Training and Policy Review Workshop**

Join LWV members from throughout the state for the 2011 Voter Service Board and Chair Workshop

**Topics include:**

- Organizing the work
- Finding a chair/volunteers
- Empty Chair Policy
- Available Grants
- Resources
- Promoting membership
- And many more!

**March 12, 2011 - 1:15 pm - 4:00 pm**

To register contact [amoen@lwvmn.org](mailto:amoen@lwvmn.org) .

**All LWV Members Welcome To Attend**

**LWVSLP Annual Meeting**

April 16, 2011 at the Minneapolis Golf Club 2001 Flag Ave. South

9:30 Coffee and check in

10:00 Business meeting

11:15 Program: The Foodborne Disease Epidemiologist’s Survival Guide to Bangladesh Carlota Medus, Epidemiologist Principal in the Foodborne, Vectorborne and Zoonotic Diseases unit of the Minnesota Department of Health

12:00 Lunch

Please join us for networking, selecting priorities and issues for the coming year, updates and highlights of League activities and a fascinating presentation on helping a developing country improve their public health efforts.

***Find registration information on page 10.***



**Convention**  
**May 21 & 22, 2010**  
**Rochester**

**Leaders of Today and Tomorrow (LOTT)**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual LOTT conference will be held in conjunction with LWV Minnesota’s Convention in Rochester.

You can download a flyer to help in promoting this exciting event to the young women in your lives. Scholarships are available to help those who cannot afford to attend.

The flyer can be downloaded here: <http://www.lwvmn.org/Document.Doc?id=107>

## League Of Women Voters – Minnesota

Submitted By Aggie Leitheiser

### League of Women Voters Minnesota joins with Oxfam to host International Event on March 4

March 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, a global holiday celebrating the role of women in society. Globally, women continue to take primary responsibility for caring for their families and the land. In many countries women grow 75% of the food people eat and are on the frontlines of the fight to end hunger and preserve the environment. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, League of Women Voters Minnesota will join with Oxfam America and others to host an interactive meal where attendees will meet Mme. Jacqueline Morette, a Haitian woman-farmer, learn how women are feeding the world, and have an opportunity to take action. This Oxfam America Hunger Banquet and Sisters on the Planet event will take place at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN from 6 to 8 pm. This event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP to Deborah Price at [dl.price@comcast.net](mailto:dl.price@comcast.net)

Join with Oxfam America

### Celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Women's Day



### Oxfam America Hunger Banquet: A Sisters on the Planet Event

**Date:** March 4

**Time:** 6pm to 8pm

**Place:** Univ. of MN Continuing Education Conference Center

1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN

**Speakers:** U.S. Rep. Betty McCollMme. Jacqueline Morette, Haitian farmer

*Globally, women are the primary caretakers of their families and the land – often producing up to 75% of the food in developing nations. Please join with Oxfam America and cosponsors on March 4 for an interactive meal where you can learn how women feed the world, and what you can do to support them.*

*This event is free and open to the public. For more information go to <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/events> LWV Minnesota RSVP to Deborah Price [dl.price@comcast.net](mailto:dl.price@comcast.net) or 763.476.1791*



**Oxfam**  
America

**Sponsors:** Advocates for Human Rights; AFSA High School; Church World Service; Compatible Technology International; Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs; Land Stewardship Project; League of Women Voters Minnesota; Minnesota Fair Trade Coalition; McKnight Foundation; Minnesota International Center; Minnesota Oxfam Action Corps; Minnesota United Methodist Women; National Catholic Rural Life Conference; University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; UMN Human Rights Program; universities Fighting Hunger; World Food Prize Foundation

## We Need Your Help

### 2011 CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES

There will be over 70 citizenship ceremonies in 2011, and we need your help. We are the only organization that is able to register the new citizens at their ceremonies...an inspiring and fun activity for all! We have enough regular volunteers for the smaller ceremonies, but will need more for the following larger ceremonies. For many, coming as refugees, this will be the first time they will be able to vote. Join us and let's encourage their civic participation! We start 45 minutes before the ceremonies begin. On days when there are two ceremonies, and if you can help at both, a good time can always happen over lunch.

Date	Location	Time
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Fitzgerald Theatre in St. Paul	We begin at 9:15 AM and 1:15 PM
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	U. of St. Thomas Law School in Minneapolis	We begin at 9:15 AM
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Fort Snelling	We begin at 11:15 AM
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	U. of St. Thomas Law School in Minneapolis	We begin at 9:15 AM
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	U of MN Law School	We begin at 10:15 AM and 1:15 PM
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Bethel University, Arden Hills	We begin at 9:15 AM and 1:15 PM
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bethel University, Arden Hills	We begin at 9:15 AM and 1:15 PM
August 3	Bethel University, Arden Hills	We begin at 9:15 AM and 1:15 PM
August 24 <sup>th</sup>	Landmark Center in St. Paul	We begin at 9:15 AM and 1:15 PM
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	William Mitchell Law in St. Paul	We begin at 9:15 AM and 1:15 PM
November 18 <sup>th</sup>	Hamline U. Sch. Of Law	We begin at 9:15 AM and 1:15 PM

If you will be able to help please contact Judy Stuthman, 651-644-8588 or email [jastuthman@aol.com](mailto:jastuthman@aol.com)



## Ranked Choice Voting

Submitted By Deb Brinkman

### Unit 3 Meeting Speaker: Carol Rudie FairVote, MN ([www.fairvotemn.org](http://www.fairvotemn.org))

FairVote Minnesota was founded in 1996 to work for better democracy through public education and advocating progressive voting systems that lead to greater competitiveness, better representation and more participation.

Carol is the past board chair and is the organization's primary spokesperson. She is passionate about Ranked Choice Voting and did a wonderful job explaining how it would work, and why it is more fair than our current system – especially when there are more than 2 candidates.

Carol presented Ranked Choice Voting to SLPLWV Unit 2 and Unit 3 members last week. She was prepared with several handouts:

- A sample ballot
- A control chart showing elections that were won with less than 50% of the vote
- A sample of the training material used in Minneapolis
- An article showing survey results from Minneapolis and a St. Cloud University survey
- A publication explaining Ranked Choice Voting

What is Ranked Choice Voting?

Also known as Instant Runoff voting is quite simple. Voters can rank the candidates according to their preference, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>.

How does it work?

1. If a candidate wins 50% of the 1<sup>st</sup> choice votes, that candidate wins.
2. If not, the candidate who received the least number of votes loses – his votes are reassigned to the voter's 2<sup>nd</sup> choice.
3. The process (process of elimination) is repeated until one candidate has a majority.

Why is RVC a better way to vote?

- Simplifies elections and saves money
- Ensures majority winners in single-seat elections
- Ensures more diverse representation
- Increases voter participation
- Gives voters more choices and makes every vote count
- Expands political access for all candidates
- Promotes civil elections

Does RCV Uphold the One-person, One-vote Principle?

Yes. The Minnesota Supreme Court has ruled unanimously that RCV upholds the constitutional principle of one-person, one-vote.

Where is RCV being successfully used?

- Academy of Motion Pictures for Best Picture
- International Olympic Committee for host country selection
- More than 50 universities and colleges for student elections



## Take Action Public Financing in Danger

### **ACTION ALERT: Presidential Public Financing in Danger**

The presidential public financing system has served America well since 1976 by allowing candidates to raise the funds needed to wage competitive campaigns. Recently, the House of Representatives voted to eliminate the system which has substantially reduced corruption and the appearance of corruption in the executive branch since its inception.

Take action now to tell your Senators to oppose the elimination of the presidential public financing system by entering your zip code on the right hand side of this page.

Repair legislation is expected soon that takes into account the changes that have occurred in presidential campaigns in recent years. It is this legislation that Congress should be focusing on.

#### TAKE ACTION

1. Contact your Senators now. Tell them to oppose the elimination of the presidential public financing system. You can also call your Senators at 202-224-3121.
2. Send this alert to other concerned citizens - your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their elected leaders.

*Sen. Amy Klobuchar*



MN  
Phone: **(202) 224-3244**  
Fax: **(202) 228-2186**

*Sen. Al Franken*



MN  
Phone: **(202) 224-5641**  
Fax: **(202) 224-0044**

Subject: Oppose elimination of presidential public financing.

I urge you to oppose legislation that will eliminate the presidential public financing system. Public financing has allowed candidates to raise the funds needed to wage competitive campaigns and substantially reduced corruption and the appearance of corruption in the executive branch. While the system is in need of repair, it is not acceptable for Congress to destroy the system. I urge you to consider repair legislation and not repeal legislation.

## Pay Equity Submitted by Barb Person

### REASONS TO MAINTAIN PAY EQUITY ENFORCEMENT IN MINNESOTA

- **The purpose of the Local Government Pay Equity Act (LGPEA) of 1984, M.S.471.991**, is to eliminate sex-based wage disparities in public employment in this state. [1]
- **The earnings gap between average earnings of women and men continues.** In September 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that among U.S. full-time, year-round workers age 15 and over in 2009, median earnings for women were only 77.7% of median earnings for men. In Minnesota in 2009, women earned 77.3% of the median earnings for men.[2]
- **Pay equity has eliminated the earnings gap among 45,000 state employees.** Since passage of the State Employees Pay Equity Act of 1982, the average earnings for women employed by the State of Minnesota have reached 97% of the average earnings for men. [3]
- **Pay equity has been working for 220,000 local government employees.** The LGPEA of 1984 requires Minnesota cities, counties, schools, and others to identify and correct any gender-based inequities. Each of the 1,500 local governments must send a two-page report to Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) once every three years. In 2010, 25% of local units of government were found out of compliance or needed further clarification. MMB assisted those out of compliance and by the end of 2010, 94% were in compliance. In 2010, the average cost to local governments to comply with pay equity was 0.1% of payroll. [4] With this systemic method of employers self identifying and correcting gender inequities, the need for individual lawsuits and collective bargaining disruptions is reduced.
- **Pay equity laws focus on wage fairness within an employer's workforce** rather than on "market forces" which compare jobs across workplaces. Public sector pay generally includes relatively higher pay rates for lower-level jobs and relatively lower pay for higher-level jobs than in the private sector.[5] The public sector pay equity laws do not change this pattern; they simply ensure that jobs generally performed by women are not consistently paid less than comparably valued jobs performed by men.
- **Submitting local government pay equity reports is now fully automated.** The software is a web-based application and enables local governments to submit reports with the click of a button. In a January 2011 example, a new city clerk called MMB for basic information on completing this report, and by consulting web-based resources was able to file the required report within one hour.[6]
- **Shorter reporting cycles lead to fewer inequities.** In January 2008, after a brief period when the reporting cycle was five years, MMB reported that half of the jurisdictions required to report were either out of compliance or submitted reports that required further correction or clarification. In 2010, with a three-year reporting cycle, only one quarter needed further correction or clarification.[7]

Prepared by the **PAY EQUITY COALITION OF MINNESOTA** 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103. For further information: 651-271-1462, [ptanji@aol.com](mailto:ptanji@aol.com), [www.womenpayequity.blogspot.com](http://www.womenpayequity.blogspot.com). See over for notes.

#### NOTES

- [1] Minnesota Local Government Pay Equity Compliance Report, Minnesota Management and Budget, January 2011
- [2] American Community Survey Briefs, Men's and Women's Earnings for States and Metropolitan Statistical Area: 2009
- [3] Minnesota Management and Budget, communication, January 8 & 10, 2011
- [4] Minnesota Local Government Pay Equity Compliance Report, Minnesota Management and Budget, January 2011
- [5] Minnesota Taxpayer's Association Report, Minnesota Public Sector Compensation, Part 1, Costs, Trends, and Comparisons to the Private Sector, October 2010, p. 70
- [6] Minnesota Management and Budget, communication, January 8 & 10, 2011
- [7] Minnesota Local Government Pay Equity Compliance Report, Minnesota Management and Budget, January 2011



**League of Women Voters of St. Louis Park  
Board and Portfolio Members  
February 26, 2011**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Length</b>	<b>2010 – 2011 Member</b>	<b>2012 Candidate</b>	<b>Elected/ Appointed</b>
President	2 years	Aggie Leiseiser	Aggie Leitheiser	E
Vice President	2 years	Debbie Blake	NA	E
Secretary	2 years	Deb Brinkman Nancy Klaber	Allyson Sheldrew	E
Treasurer	2 years	Barb Person	NA	E
Voter Service	1 year	Vacant	Eilseen Kniesely	E
CMAL Delegate	1 year	Dorothy Karlson	Dorothy Karlson	E
Membership	2 years	Ellen Hacker	NA	E
Nominating Committee Chair	1 year	Eilseen Knisely		E
Nominating Committee Member	1 year	Logene Kobe		E
Nominating Committee Member	1 year	Nancy Klaber	Nancy Klaber	E
Nominating Committee Member	1 year	Barbara Aslakson	NA	A
Oberserver Coordinator	1 year	Judith Cook	Judith Cook	A
Voter Editor	1 year	Ellen Hacker/ Deb Brinkman	Deb Brinkman	A
West Metro Liaison	1 year	Barb Person	Barb Person	A
Unit 2 Chair	1 year	Barbara Aslakson	Barbara Aslakson	A
Unit 3 Chair	1 year	Eilseen Kniesely	Eilseen Kniesely	A
State Board Liaison	1 year	Elaine White	Elaine White	NA

**LWV SLP 2010 Annual Meeting**

Saturday, April 16 - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Minneapolis Golf Club, 2001 Flag Avenue South, St. Louis Park 55426  
(952) 544-4471

The annual meeting is a great time to meet up with LWVSLP members, especially if you haven't had a chance to attend all of our events over the past year. It's also a wonderful opportunity to meet new members. We're very excited to have several new members who have joined recently. If you need a ride to the meeting, call Aggie Leitheiser:

**YES! I WILL BE ATTENDING. Enclosed is my check (payable to LWV SLP)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please, mark your choices:

\$19.50 Mandarin Chicken Salad  
(Baby greens tossed with sliced strawberries, mandarin oranges and caramelized walnuts. Topped with mandarin marinated chicken breast and served with raspberry/poppy seed dressing)

\$16.50 Sand Wedge Sandwich (Turkey, provolone cheese, lettuce and tomato served on focaccia bread with garlic mayonnaise. Accompanied by house made pasta salad and a fresh fruit garnish)

All entrees accompanied by coffee and tea. Additional beverages (soda, wine or beer) are available at an additional cost.

**MAIL CHECK (payable to LWVSLP) & THIS FORM BY APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> TO:**  
**Barb Person**  
**LWV St. Louis Park Treasurer**  
**2049 Utah Ave. S.**  
**St. Louis Park, MN 55426**

**LWV SLP OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2010-2011**

OFFICERS:

President: Aggie Leitheiser  
Vice President: Debbie Blake  
Secretary: Nancy Klaber  
Treasurer/W.Metro: Barb Person

DIRECTORS:

Observer Coordinator: Judith Cook  
Voter Service: Vacant  
Membership: Ellen Hacker  
At Large: Elaine White  
CMAL: Dorothy Karlson  
Voter Editor: Deb Brinkman



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
Making **Democracy** Work®

**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 \$25.00
- Voter Subscription Only \$10.00
- Single Active Attending Member \$45.00
- Supporting/Member-at-Large \$50.00
- Family Membership (2 or more in single household) \$70.00

**Make checks payable to LWVSLP and send check & this form to:**

Ellen Hacker, Membership Chair  
3993 Brunswick Ave. South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416  
(952-920-9549) [ehacker@comcast.net](mailto:ehacker@comcast.net)



4327 Alabama Avenue, South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Aggie Leitheiser, President  
(952) 938-6255,  
[aggieleit@comcast.net](mailto:aggieleit@comcast.net)

Ellen Hacker, Membership  
(952) 920-9549  
[ehacker@comcast.net](mailto:ehacker@comcast.net)

Deb Brinkman, Editor  
(612) 803-6142  
[deb.brinkman@gmail.com](mailto:deb.brinkman@gmail.com)

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**LWV Mission Statement**

*The League of Women Voters, 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.lwvmn.org/localLeagues/SLP](http://www.lwvmn.org/localLeagues/SLP)