



VOTER

Calendar Highlights

March Unit Meeting: Equity and Inclusion in Education

7:00pm, Thursday, March 16th
St. Louis Park City Hall
Guest – Karen Waters,
SLP School Board

CMAL Program: Emergency Management in the Metro Area – Focus on Public Health

10:00am, Tuesday, March 14th, 1:00pm

What's Inside...

- President's Message
- March 16 - Unit Meeting
- April: Tour the Capital
- May: Annual Meeting
- March 17 - CMAL Program
- March 25 – West Metro Meeting
- Legacy Luncheon & Convention
- Take Action – Tips from LWVMN
- Book Review
- Observer Report
- Calendar
- Join LWV SLP!



Karen Waters
School Board - St. Louis Park Schools
Presenter at March Unit Meeting

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 LWVrs

Cheers to Women's History Month! Our rich history is a worthy celebration! While there are individual women worthy of recognition, our greatest strength is when women band together. The LWV supported women voting, the Liberian Civil War women's movement seeking peace, and most recently The Women's March Rally. When I look for a recipe for change, I think of MADD. They made drunk driving hurt financially, and then drunk driving socially unacceptable. It is clearly a recipe for success.

Thank you to Betty, Shelley and Judy for providing content for our last Unit Meeting. I learned a ton. I must admit that I didn't sleep very well for several days until I learned that several states are already actively trying to reduce incarceration.

The March calendar includes Children First Champion Breakfast on March 2, Empty Bowls on March 9, our Unit Meeting on March 16, West Metro Meeting on March 25 and CMAL on March 18.

I hope to see each of you very soon.

Deb Brinkman
President, LWV St. Louis Park

www.lwvslp.org



Educate. Advocate. Reform.

Kind Regards,
Deb Brinkman

'I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.' Dr. Angela Davis

Highlights from the February Board Meeting

- *LWMN looking for volunteer to track Money In Politics
- *Discussed preparations for the Unit meeting Racial Disparity in our Criminal Justice System
- *Discussed details for the March Unit Meeting
- *Discussed details for the April Tour the Capitol Unit Meeting
- *Discussed plans for the LWV Annual Meeting
- *Shelley noted the CMAL meeting will be March 18
- *Barb noted the West Metro meeting will be March 25
- *Support for SLP Seeds Earth Day on April 25

Program for March Unit Meeting

Racial Disparities in Education: Local, State and National Perspectives

7:00pm, March 16th, 1st Floor Community Room, St. Louis Park City Hall

A message from Karen Waters on her presentation:

I am honored to be able to share with the LWV SLP:
Minnesota has one of the largest racial achievement gaps and this has an enormous impact on our community's future. For me it comes down to social justice (every student deserves an excellent public education), the preservation of our democracy (informed voters who have the essential critical thinking skills to elect the best representatives for governance) and our economic well-being (in Minnesota we don't have enough future employees in the pipeline to fill all of the jobs that will be vacated by retiring baby boomers -- we can't afford to have any student left behind).

We'll be taking a look at some of the things that are helping St. Louis Park Public Schools close the achievement gap -- specifically through our commitment to racial equity and what that means for white educators and administrators (and school board members) and our staff and students of color. You may also recall that Representative Peggy Flanagan has reviewed our commitment to racial equity and is writing a bill to expand our work in equity coaching to help further this work in our community as well as greater Minnesota.

I have been a passionate advocate for kids and public education for a long time. I believe in the work of Dr. Peter Benson and the 40 Assets to make a difference in the lives of all children (Children First). I also believe in racial justice and serve the school district as a board member as well as serve the joint powers board for WMEP (West Metro Education Program).

Best Regards, Karen

Program for April Unit Meeting:

Tour of Newly Remodeled State Capitol Building

Saturday, April 8, 11:00 – 2:00

Watch for More information on a possible lunch stop

Save the date for the Annual Meeting: May 13, more details to come

The Council of Metropolitan Area LWVs of Women Voters presents:

Emergency Management in the Metro Area – Focus on Public Health

Are you interested in immunization/Zika/Ebola/influenza? Hear from public health officials how state and local governments work to keep metro area residents safe.



Emergency Preparedness Planning

How Metro Area Health Agencies Respond To Public Health Crises

With Guest Speakers:

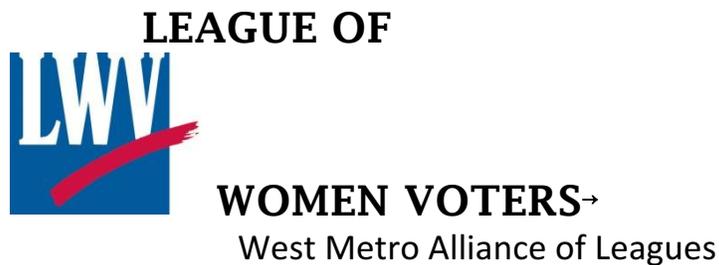
Janice Maine
Training and Exercise Planner
MN Dept. of Health

Gina Adasiewicz
Deputy Director
Dakota County Public Health Dept.



10:30 am Saturday, March 18, 2017
Autumn Grove Park | 1365 Lydia Ave. W., Roseville, MN

Presented by the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues
Free and Open to the Public



Community Policing

Saturday, March 25, 2017

St Louis Park City Hall
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
5005 Minnetonka Boulevard
St Louis Park, MN

Moderator: Patty Robles, LWV Wayzata/Plymouth

9:30 Coffee & Conversation

10:00 Panel Discussion

11:00 Q & A

Panelists:

- Chief Tim Fournier, New Hope Police Department
- Monique Drier, Community Liaison, Brooklyn Center and Joint Community Police Partnership (JCPP)
- Julia Ross, Community Liaison, Hopkins Police Department

Topics for discussion will include the training of officers and their response to issues of mental health, Executive Orders, immigration, extremism and opiate overdoses.

State Convention, April 29, 2017



While plans are in the beginning stages, please mark your calendars for April 28 - April 29, 2017. The events will be held at the Normandale Community College, Garden Room, 9700 France Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55431.

LWV Bloomington and LWV Edina is assisting with planning and recruiting volunteers.

As a means of keeping costs down, the main business of the convention will be held on Saturday, April 29th. Friday's proposed plans included the Legacy Luncheon, followed by MLD training, an Advocacy Workshop and an evening dinner/speaker program.

Events for the evening are in planning stages. Embassy Suites is holding 20 rooms for those who would like to stay overnight. More details will be provided. The Convention Planning Committee will be sending regular updates throughout the following months.

We encourage local LWVs to budget some of your education funds to cover the expenses of your LWV delegates to attend convention.

Take Action!

LWV advocacy is only as effective as the volunteers who are willing to contact their legislators and speak in a clear voice urging elected officials to support LWV positions. Social media will be used to post Action Alerts. Visit LWV MN's Facebook page and the Voter – Virtual Edition, a Facebook group for LWV members and friends.

Take Action with LWV Minnesota

Go to www.lwvmn.org to: Subscribe to Action Alerts

Subscribe to the Capitol Letter

Visit LWV Minnesota's Facebook

The Voter – Virtual Edition

A Facebook group for LWV members and friends

Local LWVs = Grass Roots Power

Subscribe to Action Alerts so you can take action when a bill is in committee or going to the floor. The Capitol Letter keeps you informed about legislative activity. Email, phone, write your legislators, attend Town Hall meetings and speak up.

Local LWV Advocacy Tips - How to Effectively Lobby Your Legislators

LEGISLATORS LISTEN TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS. The most effective way to promote LWV positions is to ensure that legislators hear frequently and repeatedly from their constituents in a variety of venues and formats. Each local LWV should have one person or, better yet, a committee in charge of Action to lead your efforts to persuade local legislators to support LWV positions. Remember to speak as a “concerned citizen.” In order to speak as a representative of LWV, you must receive prior approval of the statement from the state office.

Sign up to receive LWV Minnesota Action Alerts and the Capitol Letter Or go to lwvmn.org, on the Home Page click on Why LWV> Get Involved with LWV. Action Alerts will also be posted on the Facebook page of LWV Minnesota and the Voter – Virtual Edition.

#1) **Become familiar with the Minnesota Legislature website** www.leg.state.mn.us. There’s a lot of information on the Home page of this website. Click on Member Information to find your legislator’s page that includes contact information and committee assignments. You should also subscribe to your state Senator’s Email List and join your state Representative’s email updates list for announcements.

#2) **Town Hall Meetings.** These events provide a terrific opportunity for you to speak as a “concerned constituent” if you are organized and prepared. Legislators will often announce these events in the local newspaper and their Email List or email updates list. Call their office and ask when the next Town Hall will be held.

- Send out notices about this event to your local LWV and organize a group of members to attend.
- Prepare 4-7 questions ahead of time and hand them out to your group along with information – your reasons as a “concerned constituent” for supporting/opposing a bill or a policy question. Make use of LWV MN’s briefing papers and other LWV material for your talking points. Ask each member in your group to include a personal experience for supporting/opposing a bill. Sharing a personal experience is an effective way to illustrate the effect of a bill.
- Arrive early at the Town Hall event, your group should spread out across the room but sit in the front half of the room. Don’t sit together – your group would stand out and could be avoided by the legislator.

- Everyone in your group should raise their hands when it is time to take questions. Focus on the prepared questions. It is crucial to be polite and friendly – you don't want to burn any bridges to this legislator.
- After one member of your group asks a question, other members should raise their hands and ask another question on the prepared list.
- When a member of your group asks a question, everyone should applaud to show there are other constituents who feel the same way.
- If you get a chance to speak, refer back to a previous question. You might say that you want to go back to Voting Rights or Clean Water or whatever issue was raised in a previous question. This is a way to emphasize that many constituents are concerned about the same issue.
- Someone in your group should bring a smart phone or video camera to record the segment when your members ask questions and the legislator's responses. Share it with everyone. Post this video or pictures on your local LWV Facebook page or other social media. Send it to your local newspaper.
- Remember to follow up with an email urging your legislator to support LWV positions or thanking him/her for his statements at the Town Hall.

#3) Non-town hall meetings. At these events, arrive as a group of concerned citizens and be prepared to speak with media. Have messages prepared ahead of time that you can give to reporters or other media. Again, remember that you are speaking as concerned citizens/constituents.

#2) Meet with your legislator in his/her office at the Capitol or at a place in your district.

Schedule a meeting with your legislator(s) by calling his/her office. Go to the legislator's page to find the office location and telephone number. If you are far from the state Capitol, you could also Skype or use Facetime with the legislator.

- Plan a trip to your legislator's office or another place. Some legislators hold regular meetings at a local site, such as a coffee house, that is more convenient for constituents.
- To maximize your effectiveness, bring a group of 3 or more constituents to this meeting. You could even invite a constituent to speak using FaceTime.
- Prepare several questions ahead of time just like you would do for a Town Hall meeting. Have a specific bill or policy issue that you want to discuss. Present personal stories to illustrate the effect of a bill or policy issue on you or someone you know. Follow up with an email.
- Again, it is crucial that everyone be polite and respectful. Keep it friendly.

- If the legislator is not available, meet with the legislative assistant. Ask how the legislator stands on a bill or issue. Leave a written statement about the bill or policy issue and the personal story with the assistant.
- Always take a photo with the legislator and post it on social media along with comments about the meeting: "We met with Rep. XYZ today and learned that he/she will protect Election Day registration". OR "We met with Sen. XYZ at the state Capitol today. The Senator wouldn't say how she will vote on the bill to eliminate buffer zones. Phone or email and tell her that buffer zones are important for keeping our water clean".

. #3) **Coordinate calls.** This is one of the quickest and easiest ways to show there are many constituents who are concerned about a bill that will be heard in committee or up for a vote on the floor of the House or Senate. Prepare a single question/issue for each call. Everyone in your group should agree to call in on that one issue. If a legislator gets 6 or more calls in one day on a bill, that will have an impact. Follow up each call with an email to the legislator with subject: Vote YES/NO on Bill ### and cc to the committee chair and the Speaker of the House or Senate Majority Leader.

REMEMBER TO THANK LEGISLATORS WHO SUPPORT LWV POSITIONS.

Guest Book Review

Slavery by Another Name by Douglas A. Blackman

I am reading *Slavery by Another Name* by Douglas A. Blackmon. The 'legal' re-enslavement of emancipated African Americans via a corrupt white legal and business system occurred immediately post-Civil War as emancipated slaves began exercising freedom and political power. "Offenses" were mystically invented to keep black men in the grips of corrupt sheriffs and officials and recreated the slavery industrial complex that fed the confederate war machine. While the writing is excellent, the content makes me ill.

There is a current prison industrial complex that involves excessive sentences for 'black crimes,' some of the same corruption, state and privatized for-profit prisons, excessive fees and phone call costs, etc. There is little incentive to invest in and prepare prisoners for a successful life in their community.

In Minnesota we have reduced nonviolent sentences, stopped the reopening of one Prison Corporation of America's prisons, but some are hell bent on opening it as a local jobs program so that it will never go away. The 'law and order' crowd are resisting the reduction of the sentences that keep mostly people of color in the prison pipe line. Recently at a rally for Second

Chance Minnesota at the state capital, we heard compelling stories of broken individuals who have worked against terrible odds to rebuild their lives only to be stopped by long sentences followed by long probations and rules that forbid their entering professions, finding housing, connecting with their children, voting, and other rights of citizens.

Submitted by Michael Hindin, St. Louis Park

Observer Report

City Council Meeting, February 21, 2017

The first order of business was the Human Rights award presented to Chana Shagalow for her work with special needs children. The award was presented by Kathleen Arnold, chair of the Human Rights Commission.

There was a public Hearing to consider the allocation of the Community Development Block Grant Funds from HUD of \$162, 078. These funds are used to benefit low income people with housing needs, repair and maintenance. In 2016 some of the funds were used to assist a person with sight and hearing loss to replace a braille machine when the basement flooded; to provide financial literacy classes; to prevent foreclosure; to assist with re-financing questions and to provide emergency assistance, etc.

The Council approved the 3rd amendment to the preliminary development agreement with PLACE.

The Council approved the 1st reading of an ordinance amendment to allow alcohol in the Recreation Outdoor Center (ROC).

The Council approved the Residential Cost Share Program where in the City will share costs rain gardens, pervious pavement, green roofs, trees, rain barrels, etc.

The Council approved a Master License Agreement with Verizon whereby Verizon will install small antenna on light poles.

The Council approved the City Manager's annual evaluation and salary. In 2017 his salary will be \$173,356 with benefits it is \$187,537

It was noted that Vison St. Louis Park is underway.

Submitted by Judy Cook

LWVSLP Calendar



August 4th: planning our calendar for next year

Thu Mar 9, 2017

11:30am - 7:30pm Empty Bowls 11:30 - 1 pm or 5 - 7:30 pm

Video call: Join video call

Where: Westwood Lutheran Church 9001 Cedar Lake Road

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Thu Mar 16, 2017

7pm - 9pm Racial Disparity in education

Where: SLP City Hall First Floor Community Room

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: Emergency Management in the Metro Area – focus on public health

Video call: Join video call

Where: Autumn Grove Park Gathering Center, 1365 Lydia Avenue West, Roseville

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Description:

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters presents:Emergency Management in the Metro Area – focus on public health. Are you interested in immunization/Zika/Ebola/influenza? Hear from public health officials how state and local governments work to keep metroarea residents safe. Janice Maine (MN Dept. Health) and Gina Adasiewicz(Dakota County Public Health) will present and take questions on Saturday, March 18, at Autumn Grove Park Gathering Center, 1365 Lydia Avenue West, Roseville. 10:00 am sign-in and coffee; 10:30-12:00 presentations and Q & A. Free and open to the public.

Sat Mar 25, 2017

9:30am - 12:30pm West Metro - Community Policing

Video call: Join video call

Where: SLP City Hall Council Chambers

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Description: Panel and Discussion 9:30 Check In and refreshments 10 am speaker

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 - Deb Brinkman's

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Sat Apr 8, 2017

11am - 2pm LWV Unit 3 Meeting - Tour the Capital

Video call: Join video call

Where: Capitol St. Paul

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Tue Apr 25, 2017

12pm - 1pm Earth Day

Video call: Join video call

Where: Support SLP Seeds

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

8am - 4pm 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 13, 2017

9:30am - 1pm Annual Meeting - Date Change!

Where: Aquila Commons Party Room

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Description:

Aquila Party Room Sandwiches and Salads 9:30 am check in and socializing 10 am speaker 10 - 11 business meeting 11 speaker 12 lunch 1 clean up

Sun May 21, 2017

12pm - 4pm Children First Ice Cream Social

Video call: Join video call

Where: SLP ROC

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Thu Jun 1, 2017

All day Fair Labor Standards Act Equal Pay for Women 1963

Thu Jun 1, 2017 - Fri Jun 2, 2017

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Thu Jun 22, 2017

All day Title IX Equality in Education and Sports 1972

Thu Jun 22, 2017 - Fri Jun 23, 2017

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Mon Jun 26, 2017

All day 26th Amendment Voting Age to Vote from 21 to 18

Mon Jun 26, 2017 - Tue Jun 27, 2017

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman

Tue Aug 1, 2017

All day Program Planning

Tue Aug 1, 2017 - Wed Aug 2, 2017

Calendar: LWV St. Louis Park

Created by: deb brinkman



OFFICERS:

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 CMAL Liaison: Shelley Colvin
 Voter Editor: Shelley Colvin

**YES! I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE
 LWV 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:**

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



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Address Correction Requested