



# Voter

## Inside

President’s Message ..... pg 2

Worth Noting..... pg 3

Member Info ..... pg 4

Virtual City Tour ..... pg 5

LWVMN LWVUS ..... pg 6

Fans of The Help ..... pg 7

Cellphone Use and Cancer Risk ..... pg 10

Redistricting .....pg 18

Observer Reports..... pg 18

LWV SLP 2011 – 2012 Calendar..... pg 19



## September Calendar

- September 6, 7:00 pm  
LWV SLP Board Meeting  
Host: Eilseen Knisely
- September 14, 12:30 pm  
Unit 2 Meeting  
Topic: Census  
Parkshore Card Room
- September 15, 7 pm  
General Meeting  
Topic: Census  
Location: City Hall
- September 22, 7 – 9 pm  
Public Hearing on Redistricting Maps  
South High School

### Upcoming Events

- October 4, 7 pm  
LWV SLP Board Meeting  
Host: Debbie Blake
- October 12, 12:30 pm  
Unit 2 Meeting  
Topic: Green Cities DVD  
Location: Parkshore Card Room
- October 15  
CMAL  
Topic: New Metropolitan Council  
St. Louis Park City Hall
- October 20  
Candidate Forum - City Council  
Location: St. Louis Park City Hall
- October 26  
Candidate Forum - School Board  
Location: City Hall

## Redistricting

**The Unit 2 and Unit 3 September meeting topics will be on the Census and Redistricting. We are looking forward to seeing you there!**

*See Page 3 for additional information.*

**Save the Date**  
**CMAL Quarterly Meeting**  
**“The New Metropolitan Council”**  
**Saturday, October 15**

**9:30 am Coffee and Connect**  
**10:00 am Mini-Orientation to CMAL**  
**10:30 am Presentation and Discussion**  
**11:50 am Announcements**

## President's Message

The League of Women Voters of St. Louis Park kicked off our 2011-2012 program year with a picnic supper and lively discussions on the scope of topics we'd like to explore this year. We were not able to fit everything into the coming year but hope you will find our mix of topics and methods an engaging opportunity to learn more about issues as well as our community. We started by reviewing the topics from our annual meeting and expanded from there.

We're starting off with a great program on the St. Louis Park 2010 Census results. Please join either Unit 2 or Unit 3 for this informative presentation.

This year is a busy year for candidate forums. The City Council has two open seats at large – Seat A and Seat B. There were three candidates for the At-large Seat B so a Primary was held on August 9. There was a big turnout for the Primary Candidate Forum on July 19. Thanks to Eilseen Knisely who coordinated the forum and to Reg Dunlap who make sure the Forum is broadcast live and in repeat performances. Please join us for the City Council and School Board Forums in October.

*—Aggie Leitheiser, LWV SLP President, 952-938-6255*

### August Board Meeting Highlights

Some highlights from our Planning Meeting:

- Topics selected for this year include: Census, the National Study on Education, Redistricting, Activities of the Met Council, Voter ID issues and legislative update, and recycling/rain gardens. We will have our annual Lively Issues/Program planning session and our legislative interviews with a chili lunch this year as well.
- We will continue with the same plan of a monthly program at Parkshore Senior Campus at 12:30 on the second Wednesday and either a members Unit meeting or a general meeting usually on the third Thursday at 7:00 pm.
- Received the notice that we received a voter service grant from LWVMN to help support our candidate forums and encouraging voters to vote.
- Discussed partnering with Dollars for Scholars this year to provide a scholarship for St. Louis Park High School.
  - Will look for a female student that is interested in political science.
  - Scholarship will likely be \$500.
  - Task Force for the project: Allyson Sheldrew, Deb Brinkman, and Judy Cook.



## Worth Noting

### Medicine Collection Event

Hennepin County is holding an upcoming medicine collection event:

When:

Saturday, September 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location:

St. Louis Park parking lot in southwest quadrant of Hwy. 7 and Louisiana Ave.  
Enter on Lake Street W.

Directions: From the intersection of Highway 7 and Louisiana Avenue, go south on Louisiana Avenue. Turn right (west) onto Lake Street. Turn right into event site.

Medicine from households will be accepted, including:

- Prescription and over-the-counter medications
- Vitamins
- Supplements
- Pet medications

Medicines will be accepted in any form, including ampoules, blister packs, capsules, creams, gels, inhalers, IV bags, liquids, patches, pills, powders, sprays, vials, etc.

### 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment

*Aug 18, 1920 – the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote, is ratified by Tennessee, giving it the two-thirds majority of state ratification necessary to make it the law of the land.*

### Draw the Line

Visit the web site to find information on other redistricting meetings. Click on the Resource Library to watch videos.

<http://drawthelinemidwest.org/minnesota/public-meetings/>

### September Unit Meetings The Changing Faces of St. Louis Park

What has changed in St. Louis Park in the last 10 years? Is our average age getting younger or older? Do we have more people or fewer? How do we compare to other parts of Minnesota?

These and other questions will be discussed by Susan Brower, a researcher at the Minnesota State Demographic Center. Susan analyzes demographic and social trends and presents findings to audiences around the state. Her previous employment includes working as a researcher on the Minnesota Compass project at Wilder Research in St. Paul and at the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan. Susan is currently a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at the University of Michigan, specializing in demography and family sociology.

Come to a fascinating discussion of what we know about our community today and how it compares to the past. This information will be an important foundation for future planning for St. Louis Park.

Unit 2: Wednesday Sept 14 12:30 Parkshore Senior Campus, 3663 Park Center Boulevard

Unit 3: Thursday Sept 15 7:00pm St. Louis Park City Hall, 5005 Minnetonka Boulevard

For more information contact Aggie Leitheiser at [aggieleit@comcast.net](mailto:aggieleit@comcast.net) or 952-938-6255

### Special Session Ends 20 day State Shutdown

Read details on the senate web site: [www.senate.mn](http://www.senate.mn)

## Member Information “We’ll Miss You, Elaine and Ellen”



Aggie Leitheiser, Judy Cook, Barb Person, Elaine White, Eleanor Sachs, Barbara Aslakson, Deb Brinkman, Ellen Hacker

### Membership Changes In Our St. Louis Park Local League

Barb Person graciously hosted an Open House on August 27 to say farewell, thank you and best wishes to Elaine White and Ellen Hacker.

Elaine and Bill White will be moving out East to be closer to their children, and Ellen Hacker has recently moved to Bloomington.

Elaine has been an active member of LWV St. Louis Park for over 10 years and held positions on the Board and recently as a state delegate. Before her activity with the LWV St. Louis Park, Elaine was active in LWV Rochester.

Ellen has been an active LWV St. Louis Park member for over five years and has held several positions on the board, most recently as the Membership Chair and Voter Editor.

Our local LWV has benefited from their time and talents.

We wish them all our best!



Elaine White and Ellen Hacker

**LWV St. Louis Park  
Virtual City Tour May, 2011  
Submitted by Deb Brinkman**

**Virtual City Tour  
May, 2011**

**Presented by: Kevin Locke**

**The West End**

Kevin reviewed the West End Plan. The city goal is to enhance the pedestrian experience with a theme of an interconnected community. There are still two large retail spaces open and is 75% occupied. The stores that are opening are one-of-a kind stores. Looking ahead, there are plans to build another office tower.

**Ellipse**

Ellipse is located on France and Excelsior Boulevard. It is a mixed use, residential and retail space and includes a public art contribution. A new restaurant opened this summer called Mill Valley Kitchen. There was an initial concern with the shadows caused by the building, but the issue was resolved. Looking ahead: Ellipse may open another site, but if they want a new building, they will need to have a plan for parking.

**Wooddale Point**

This vacant corner will be a mixed use senior assisted living and commercial. They will break ground this summer.

**Elmwood Neighborhood Plan 2002 – 2003**

Plans for the Elmwood Neighborhood include a light rail stop with a focus on customer safety. It will also include a public art contribution.

**Hoigaard Village**

The Hoigaard Village units were going to be condo, but with the economy slow-down, they went rental instead. When it was initially developed many years ago, it was designed to get storm water into the pipe and out of St. Louis Park as soon as possible. Now, they must design a pond or lake to handle sedimentation. Looking ahead: they plan to add another building and some row homes.

**Fire Stations**

St. Louis Park will be replacing both fire stations. They are currently in the building stage. While building, they discovered a time capsule from the 1960's. They have not determined if it will be opened. Station #2 is located on Louisiana and Cedar Lake Road. They will also be updating the sports fields. Traffic was a challenge for this station.

**Eliot School**

The future for Eliot school is yet to be determined. The city is creating design guidelines. It may be used for row homes or town homes.

LWV SLP met with Kevin Locke in the Community Room at the West End. If you would like to reserve the community room, call the West End office. In addition to the community room, the 1600 building has a lobby area that can be rented for public use.

## LWV Minnesota

### *2011 Online Voter Guide*

#### *Primary Version*

#### **Check out the Vote 411 guide from LWVMN.**

LWV Minnesota has launched Vote411 for the upcoming primary election. This is the new version of the online voter guide.

For areas that have primaries, visit <http://onyourballot.vote411.org/?sfr=1311946039065> to access information on who will be on your ballot.

"If you enter your address, it gives you information about the primary candidates for the City Council Primary election for At Large Seat B" (Tuesday August 9).

Aggie Leitheiser, President  
LWV St. Louis Park

#### **Also, on the LWV Minnesota site:**

#### **Find you Elected Official**

<http://www.lwvmn.org/Page.aspx?pid=449>

Enter your street address and zip code to display the representatives in your area.

## LWV United States

### **ADVOCACY**

#### Clean Air Promise Continues to Get Attention (NEW)

Over the past two weeks, several additional states have held kick-off events for their work on the Clean Air promise and the media and community leaders have taken note. Read the updated news page on [www.Peoplenotpolluters.org](http://www.Peoplenotpolluters.org) <<http://www.peoplenotpolluters.org/> site to learn about their efforts.

#### League Participates in White House Meeting on Ozone Regulation (NEW)

Last week LWVUS Executive Director Nancy Tate participated in a meeting at the White House concerning EPA's proposal for a stricter ozone regulation. The League was one of the environmental and public health coalition partners who met with White House Chief of Staff William Daley, and staff from the EPA and the Office of Management and Budget. We urged the Administration to release the regulation, which is being opposed by business and other interests. Mr. Daley expressed interest in the League's work to protect the Clean Air Act and our current Clean Air Promise campaign. Read a press release on the meeting from the American Lung Association.

# An Open Statement to the Fans of The Help



<http://www.abwh.org>

On behalf of the Association of Black Women Historians (ABWH), this statement provides historical context to address widespread stereotyping presented in both the film and novel version of *The Help*. The book has sold over three million copies, and heavy promotion of the movie will ensure its success at the box office. Despite efforts to market the book and the film as a progressive story of triumph over racial injustice, *The Help* distorts, ignores, and trivializes the experiences of black domestic workers. We are specifically concerned about the representations of black life and the lack of attention given to sexual harassment and civil rights activism.

During the 1960s, the era covered in *The Help*, legal segregation and economic inequalities limited black women's employment opportunities. Up to 90 per cent of working black women in the South labored as domestic servants in white homes. *The Help*'s representation of these women is a disappointing resurrection of Mammy—a mythical stereotype of black women who were compelled, either by slavery or segregation, to serve white families. Portrayed as asexual, loyal, and contented caretakers of whites, the caricature of Mammy allowed mainstream America to ignore the systemic racism that bound black women to back-breaking, low paying jobs where employers routinely exploited them. The popularity of this most recent iteration is troubling because it reveals a contemporary nostalgia for the days when a black woman could only hope to clean the White House rather than reside in it.

Both versions of *The Help* also misrepresent African American speech and culture. Set in the South, the appropriate regional accent gives way to a child-like, over-exaggerated "black" dialect. In the film, for example, the primary character, Aibileen, reassures a young white child that, "You is smart, you is kind, you is important." In the book, black women refer to the Lord as the "Law," an irreverent depiction of black vernacular. For centuries, black women and men have drawn strength from their community institutions. The black family, in particular provided support and the validation of personhood necessary to stand against adversity. We do not recognize the black community described in *The Help* where most of the black male characters are depicted as drunkards, abusive, or absent. Such distorted images are misleading and do not represent the historical realities of black masculinity and manhood.

## Fans of The Help, continued ...



Furthermore, African American domestic workers often suffered sexual harassment as well as physical and verbal abuse in the homes of white employers. For example, a recently discovered letter written by Civil Rights activist Rosa Parks indicates that she, like many black domestic workers, lived under the threat and sometimes reality of sexual assault. The film, on the other hand, makes light of black women's fears and vulnerabilities turning them into moments of comic relief.

Similarly, the film is woefully silent on the rich and vibrant history of black Civil Rights activists in Mississippi. Granted, the assassination of Medgar Evers, the first Mississippi based field secretary of the NAACP, gets some attention. However, Evers' assassination sends Jackson's black community frantically scurrying into the streets in utter chaos and disorganized confusion—a far cry from the courage demonstrated by the black men and women who continued his fight. Portraying the most dangerous racists in 1960s Mississippi as a group of attractive, well dressed, society women, while ignoring the reign of terror perpetuated by the Ku Klux Klan and the White Citizens Council, limits racial injustice to individual acts of meanness.

We respect the stellar performances of the African American actresses in this film. Indeed, this statement is in no way a criticism of their talent. It is, however, an attempt to provide context for this popular rendition of black life in the Jim Crow South. In the end, *The Help* is not a story about the millions of hardworking and dignified black women who labored in white homes to support their families and communities. Rather, it is the coming-of-age story of a white protagonist, who uses myths about the lives of black women to make sense of her own. The Association of Black Women Historians finds it unacceptable for either this book or this film to strip black women's lives of historical accuracy for the sake of entertainment.

Ida E. Jones is National Director of ABWH and Assistant Curator at Howard University. Daina Ramey Berry, Tiffany M. Gill, and Kali Nicole Gross are Lifetime Members of ABWH and Associate Professors at the University of Texas at Austin. Janice Sumler-Edmond is a Lifetime Member of ABWH and is a Professor at Huston-Tillotson University.

[ABWH Statement \*The Help\* \(pdf\)](#) 



## Fans of The Help, continued ...



## Suggested Reading:

## Fiction:

- **Like one of the Family: Conversations from A Domestic's Life** by Alice Childress
- **The Book of the Night Women** by Marlon James
- **Blanche on the Lam** by Barbara Neeley
- **The Street** by Ann Petry
- **A Million Nightingales** by Susan Straight

## Non-Fiction:

- **Out of the House of Bondage: The Transformation of the Plantation Household** by Thavolia Glymph
- **To Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors** by Tera Hunter
- **Labor of Love Labor of Sorrow: Black Women, Work, and the Family, from Slavery to the Present** by Jacqueline Jones
- **Living In, Living Out: African American Domesticity and the Great Migration** by Elizabeth Clark-Lewis
- **Coming of Age in Mississippi** by Anne Moody

Any questions, comments, or interview requests can be sent to:  
 ABWHTheHelp@gmail.com

## Cell Phones and Cancer Risk

### Key Points

- Cell phones emit radiofrequency energy, a form of non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation, which can be absorbed by tissues closest to where the phone is held.
- The amount of radiofrequency energy a cell phone user is exposed to depends on the technology of the phone, the distance between the phone's antenna and the user, the extent and type of use, and the user's distance from cell phone towers.
- Studies thus far have not shown a consistent link between cell phone use and cancers of the brain, nerves, or other tissues of the head or neck. More research is needed because cell phone technology and how people use cell phones have been changing rapidly.

#### 1. **Why is there concern that cell phones may cause cancer or other health problems?**

There are three main reasons why people are concerned that cell phones (also known as "wireless" or "mobile" telephones) might have the potential to cause certain types of cancer or other health problems:

- Cell phones emit radiofrequency energy (radio waves), a form of non-ionizing radiation. Tissues nearest to where the phone is held can absorb this energy.
- The number of cell phone users has increased rapidly. As of 2010, there were more than 303 million subscribers to cell phone service in the United States, according to the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association. This is a nearly threefold increase from the 110 million users in 2000. Globally, the number of cell phone subscriptions is estimated by the International Telecommunications Union to be 5 billion.
- Over time, the number of cell phone calls per day, the length of

each call, and the amount of time people use cell phones have increased. Cell phone technology has also undergone substantial changes.

#### 2. **What is radiofrequency energy and how does it affect the body?**

Radiofrequency energy is a form of [electromagnetic radiation](#). Electromagnetic radiation can be categorized into two types: ionizing (e.g., x-rays, radon, and cosmic rays) and non-ionizing (e.g., radiofrequency and extremely low-frequency or power frequency) ([1](#)).

Exposure to [ionizing radiation](#), such as from [radiation therapy](#), is known to increase the risk of cancer. However, although many studies have examined the potential health effects of non-ionizing radiation from radar, microwave ovens, and other sources, there is currently no consistent evidence that non-ionizing radiation increases cancer risk ([1](#)).

The only known biological effect of radiofrequency energy is heating. The ability of microwave ovens to heat food is one example of this effect of radiofrequency energy. Radiofrequency exposure from cell phone use does cause heating; however, it is not sufficient to measurably increase body temperature.

A recent study showed that when people used a cell phone for 50 minutes, brain tissues on the same side of the head as the phone's antenna metabolized more glucose than did tissues on the opposite side of the brain ([2](#)). The researchers noted that the results are preliminary, and possible health outcomes from this increase in glucose metabolism are still unknown.

#### 3. **How is radiofrequency energy exposure measured in [epidemiologic studies](#)?**

Levels of radiofrequency exposure are indirectly estimated using information from

**Cell Phones and Cancer Risk, continued...**

[tumors](#) (tumors in the salivary glands) ([6](#)).

interviews or questionnaires. These measures include the following:

- How “regularly” study participants use cell phones (the minimum number of calls per week or month)
- The age and the year when study participants first used a cell phone and the age and the year of last use (allows calculation of the duration of use and time since the start of use)
- The average number of cell phone calls per day, week, or month (frequency)
- The average length of a typical cell phone call
- The total hours of lifetime use, calculated from the length of typical call times, the frequency of use, and the duration of use

4. **What has research shown about the possible cancer-causing effects of radiofrequency energy?**

Although there have been some concerns that radiofrequency energy from cell phones held closely to the head may affect the brain and other tissues, to date there is no evidence from studies of cells, animals, or humans that radiofrequency energy can cause cancer.

It is generally accepted that damage to DNA is necessary for cancer to develop. However, radiofrequency energy, unlike ionizing radiation, does not cause DNA damage in cells, and it has not been found to cause cancer in animals or to enhance the cancer-causing effects of known chemical [carcinogens](#) in animals ([3-5](#)).

Researchers have carried out several types of epidemiologic studies to investigate the possibility of a relationship between cell phone use and the risk of malignant (cancerous) brain tumors, such as [gliomas](#), as well as benign (noncancerous) tumors, such as [acoustic neuromas](#) (tumors in the cells of the nerve responsible for hearing), most [meningiomas](#) (tumors in the meninges, membranes that cover and protect the brain and spinal cord), and [parotid gland](#)

In one type of study, called a [case-control study](#), cell phone use is compared between people with these types of tumors and people without them. In another type of study, called a [cohort study](#), a large group of people is followed over time and the rate of these tumors in people who did and didn’t use cell phones is compared. Cancer [incidence](#) data can also be analyzed over time to see if the rates of cancer changed in large populations during the time that cell phone use increased dramatically. The results of these studies have generally not provided clear evidence of a relationship between cell phone use and cancer, but there have been some statistically significant findings in certain subgroups of people.

Findings from specific research studies are summarized below:

- The Interphone Study, conducted by a consortium of researchers from 13 countries, is the largest health-related case-control study of use of cell phones and head and neck tumors. Most published analyses from this study have shown no statistically significant increases in brain or central nervous system cancers related to higher amounts of cell phone use. One recent analysis showed a statistically significant, albeit modest, increase in the risk of glioma among the small proportion of study participants who spent the most total time on cell phone calls. However, the researchers considered this finding inconclusive because they felt that the amount of use reported by some respondents was unlikely and because the participants who reported lower levels of use appeared to have a reduced risk of brain cancer ([7-9](#)). Another recent study from the group found no relationship between brain tumor locations and regions of the brain that were exposed to the highest level of radiofrequency energy from cell phones ([10](#)).
- A cohort study in Denmark linked billing information from more than 420,000 cell phone subscribers with brain tumor incidence data from the Danish Cancer Registry. The analyses found no association between cell phone use and the incidence of

**Cell Phones and Cancer Risk, continued...**

glioma, meningioma, or acoustic neuroma, even among people who had been cell phone subscribers for 10 or more years ([11](#), [12](#)).

- Early case-control studies in the United States, Europe, and Japan were unable to demonstrate a relationship between cell phone use and glioma or meningioma ([13](#)).
- Some case-control studies in Sweden found statistically significant trends of increasing brain cancer risk for the total amount of cell phone use and the years of use among people who began using cell phones before age 20 ([14](#)). However, another large, case-control study in Sweden did not find an increased risk of brain cancer among people between the ages of 20 and 69 ([15](#)). In addition, the international CEFALO study, which compared children who were diagnosed with brain cancer between ages 7 and 19 with similar children who were not, found no relationship between their cell phone use and risk for brain cancer ([16](#)).
- The National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program, which tracks cancer incidence in the United States over time, found no increase in the incidence of brain or other central nervous system cancers between 1987 and 2007, despite the dramatic increase in cell phone use in this country during that time ([17](#)). Similarly, incidence data from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden for the period 1974–2003 revealed no increase in age-adjusted incidence of brain tumors ([18](#)).
- Studies of workers exposed to radiofrequency energy have shown no evidence of increased risk of brain tumors among U.S. Navy electronics technicians, aviation technicians, or fire control technicians, those working in an electromagnetic pulse test program, plastic-ware workers, cellular phone manufacturing workers, or Navy personnel with a high probability of exposure to radar ([6](#)).

**5. Why are the findings from different studies of cell phone use and cancer risk inconsistent?**

A limited number of studies have shown some evidence of statistical association of cell phone use and brain tumor risks, but most studies have found no association. Reasons for these discrepancies include the following:

- **Recall bias**, which may happen when a study collects data about prior habits and exposures using questionnaires administered after disease has been diagnosed in some of the study participants. It is possible that study participants who have brain tumors may remember their cell phone use differently than individuals without brain tumors. Many epidemiologic studies of cell phone use and brain cancer risk lack verifiable data about the total amount of cell phone use over time. In addition, people who develop a brain tumor may have a tendency to recall using their cell phone mostly on the same side of their head where the tumor was found, regardless of whether they actually used their phone on that side of their head a lot or only a little.
- **Inaccurate reporting**, which may happen when people say that something has happened more or less often than it actually did. People may not remember how much they used cell phones in a given time period.
- **Morbidity and mortality** among study participants who have brain cancer. Gliomas are particularly difficult to study, for example, because of their high death rate and the short survival of people who develop these tumors. Patients who survive initial treatment are often impaired, which may affect their responses to questions. Furthermore, for people who have died, next-of-kin are often less familiar with the cell phone use patterns of their deceased family member and may not accurately describe their patterns of use to an interviewer.
- **Participation bias**, which can happen when people who are diagnosed with brain tumors are more likely than healthy people (known as [controls](#)) to enroll in a research study. Also, controls who did not or rarely used cell phones were less likely to

## Cell Phones and Cancer Risk, continued...

participate in the Interphone study than controls who used cell phones regularly. For example, the Interphone study reported participation rates of 78 percent for

meningioma patients (range 56–92 percent for the individual studies), 64 percent for the glioma patients (range 36–92 percent), and 53 percent for control subjects (range 42–74 percent) (9). One series of Swedish studies reported participation rates of 85 percent in people with brain cancer and 84 percent in control subjects (14).

- **Changing technology and methods of use.** Older studies evaluated radiofrequency energy exposure from analog cell phones. However, most cell phones today use digital technology, which operates at a different frequency and a lower power level than analog phones. Digital cell phones have been in use for more than a decade in the United States, and cellular technology continues to change (6). Texting, for example, has become a popular way of using a cell phone to communicate that does not require bringing the phone close to the head. Furthermore, the use of hands-free technology, such as wired and wireless headsets, is increasing and may decrease radiofrequency energy exposure to the head and brain.

### 6. What do expert organizations conclude?

The [International Agency for Research on Cancer](#) (IARC), a component of the World Health Organization, has recently classified radiofrequency fields as “possibly carcinogenic to humans,” based on limited evidence from human studies, limited evidence from studies of radiofrequency energy and cancer in rodents, and weak mechanistic evidence (from studies of genotoxicity, effects on [immune system function](#), [gene](#) and [protein expression](#), cell signaling, [oxidative stress](#), and [apoptosis](#), along with studies of the possible effects of

radiofrequency energy on the [blood-brain barrier](#)).

The [American Cancer Society](#) (ACS) states that the IARC classification means that there could be some risk associated with cancer, but the evidence is not strong enough to be considered causal and needs to be investigated further. Individuals who are concerned about radiofrequency exposure can limit their exposure, including using an ear piece and limiting cell phone use, particularly among children.

The [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences](#) (NIEHS) states that the weight of the current scientific evidence has not conclusively linked cell phone use with any adverse health problems, but more research is needed.

The [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA), which is responsible for regulating the safety of machines and devices that emit radiation (including cell phones), notes that studies reporting biological changes associated with radiofrequency energy have failed to be replicated and that the majority of human epidemiologic studies have failed to show a relationship between exposure to radiofrequency energy from cell phones and health problems.

The [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) states that, although some studies have raised concerns about the possible risks of cell phone use, scientific research as a whole does not support a statistically significant association between cell phone use and health effects.

The [Federal Communications Commission](#) (FCC) concludes that there is no scientific evidence that wireless phone use can lead to cancer or to other health problems, including headaches, dizziness, or memory loss.

### 7. What studies are under way that will help further our understanding of the health effects of cell phone use?

A large [prospective cohort study](#) of cell phone use and its possible long-term health effects was launched in Europe in March

## Cell Phones and Cancer Risk, continued...

2010. This study, known as [COSMOS](#), will enroll approximately 250,000 cell phone users ages 18 or older and will follow them for 20 to 30 years.

Participants in COSMOS will complete a questionnaire about their health, lifestyle,

and current and past cell phone use. This information will be supplemented with information from health records and cell phone records.

Another case-control study, called [Mobi-Kids](#), is under way to examine health effects among children.

The challenge of such ambitious studies is to maintain the completeness of their cohorts over many decades. Researchers will need to determine whether participants who leave are somehow different from those who remain throughout the follow-up period.

Although recall bias is minimized in studies that link to cell phone records, such studies face other problems. For example, it is impossible to know who is using the listed cell phone or whether that individual also places calls using other cell phones. To a lesser extent, it is not clear whether multiple users of a single phone will be represented on a single bill.

The NIEHS, which is part of the National Institutes of Health, is carrying out a study of risks related to exposure to radiofrequency energy (the type used in cell phones) in highly specialized labs that can specify and control sources of radiation and measure their effects on rodents.

### 8. **Do children have a higher risk of developing cancer due to cell phone use than adults?**

In theory, children have the potential to be at greater risk than adults for developing brain cancer from cell phones. Their nervous systems are still developing and therefore more vulnerable to factors

that may cause cancer. Their heads are smaller than those of adults and therefore have a greater proportional exposure to the field of radiofrequency radiation that is emitted by cell phones. And children have the potential of accumulating more years of cell phone exposure than adults do.

So far, the data from clinical studies in children do not support this theory. The first published analysis came from a large case-control study called CEFALO, which was conducted in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Switzerland. The study included children who were diagnosed with brain tumors between 2004 and 2008, when their ages ranged from 7 to 19. Researchers did not find an association between cell phone use and brain tumor risk in this group of children. However, they noted that their results did not rule out the possibility of a slight increase in brain cancer risk among children who use cell phones, and that data gathered through prospective studies and objective measurements, rather than participant surveys and recollections, will be key in clarifying whether there is an increased risk ([16](#)).

Researchers from the Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology in Spain are conducting another international study—[Mobi-Kids](#)—to evaluate the risk associated with new communications technologies (including cell phones) and other environmental factors in young people ages 10 to 24.

### 9. **What can cell phone users do to reduce their exposure to radiofrequency energy?**

The FDA and FCC have suggested some steps that concerned cell phone users can take to reduce their exposure to radiofrequency energy ([1](#), [19](#)):

- Reserve the use of cell phones for shorter conversations or for times when a landline phone is not available.
- Use a hands-free device, which places more distance between the phone and the head of the user.

**Cell Phones and Cancer Risk, continued...**

Hands-free kits reduce the amount of radiofrequency energy exposure to the head because the antenna, which is the source of energy, is not placed against the head.

**10. Where can I find more information about radiofrequency energy from my cell phone?**

The FCC provides information about the specific absorption rate (SAR) of cell phones produced and marketed within the last 1 to 2 years. The SAR corresponds with the relative amount of radiofrequency energy absorbed by the head of a cell phone user (20). Consumers can access this information using the phone's FCC ID number, which is usually located on the case of the phone, and the FCC's [ID search form](#).

**11. What are other sources of radiofrequency energy?**

The most common exposures to radiofrequency energy are from telecommunications devices and equipment (1). In the United States, cell phones currently operate in a frequency range of about 1,800 to 2,200 megahertz (MHz) (6). In this range, the electromagnetic radiation produced is in the form of non-ionizing radiofrequency energy.

Cordless phones (phones that have a base unit connected to the telephone wiring in a house) often operate at radio frequencies similar to those of cell phones; however, since cordless phones have a limited range and require a nearby base, their signals are generally much less powerful than those of cell phones.

Among other radiofrequency energy sources, AM/FM radios and VHF/UHF televisions operate at lower radio frequencies than cell phones, whereas sources such as radar, satellite stations, [magnetic resonance imaging](#) (MRI) devices, industrial equipment, and

microwave ovens operate at somewhat higher radio frequencies (1).

**12. How common is brain cancer? Has the incidence of brain cancer changed over time?**

Brain cancer incidence and mortality (death) rates have changed little in the past decade. In the United States, 22,340 new diagnoses and 13,110 deaths from brain cancer are estimated for 2011.

The 5-year relative survival for brain cancers diagnosed from 2001 through 2007 was 34.8 percent (21). This is the percentage of people diagnosed with brain cancer who will still be alive 5 years after diagnosis compared with the survival of a person of the same age and sex who does not have cancer.

The risk of developing brain cancer increases with age. From 2000 through 2008, there were fewer than 5 brain cancer cases for every 100,000 people in the United States under age 65, compared with approximately 19 cases for every 100,000 people in the United States who were ages 65 or older (21).

**Selected References**

1. Volkow ND, Tomasi D, Wang GJ, et al. Effects of cell phone radiofrequency signal exposure on brain glucose metabolism. *JAMA* 2011; 305(8):808–813. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
2. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (2009). [Radiation-Emitting Products: Reducing Exposure: Hands-free Kits and Other Accessories](#). Silver Spring, MD. Retrieved August 12, 2011.
3. Hirose H, Suhara T, Kaji N, et al. Mobile phone base station radiation does not affect neoplastic transformation in BALB/3T3 cells. *Bioelectromagnetics* 2008; 29(1):55–64. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
4. Oberto G, Rolfo K, Carbonatto M, et al. Carcinogenicity study of 217 Hz pulsed electromagnetic fields in Pim1 transgenic

**Cell Phones and Cancer Risk, continued...**

- mice. *Radiation Research* 2007; 168(3):316–326. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
5. Zook BC, Simmens SJ. The effects of pulsed 860 MHz radiofrequency radiation on the promotion of neurogenic tumors in rats. *Radiation Research* 2006; 165(5):608–615. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
  6. Ahlbom A, Green A, Kheifets L, et al. Epidemiology of health effects on radiofrequency exposure. *Environmental Health Perspectives* 2004; 112(17):1741–1754. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
  7. Cardis E, Richardson L, Deltour I, et al. The INTERPHONE study: design, epidemiological methods, and description of the study population. *European Journal of Epidemiology* 2007; 22(9):647–664. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
  8. International Agency for Research on Cancer (2008). [INTERPHONE Study: latest results update—8 October 2008](#). Lyon, France. Retrieved August 12, 2011.
  9. The INTERPHONE Study Group. Brain tumour risk in relation to mobile telephone use: results of the INTERPHONE international case-control study. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 2010; 39(3):675–694. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
  10. Larjavaara S, Schüz J, Swerdlow A, et al. Location of gliomas in relation to mobile telephone use: a case-case and case-specular analysis. *American Journal of Epidemiology* 2011; 174(1):2–11. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
  11. Johansen C, Boice Jr. JD, McLaughlin JK, Olsen JH. Cellular telephones and cancer: a nationwide cohort study in Denmark. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* 2001; 93(3):203–207. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
  12. Schüz J, Jacobsen R, Olsen JH, et al. Cellular telephone use and cancer risk: update of a nationwide Danish cohort. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* 2006; 98(23):1707–1713. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
  13. Muscat JE, Malkin MG, Thompson S, et al. Handheld cellular telephone use and risk of brain cancer. *JAMA* 2000; 284(23):3001–3007. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
  14. Hardell L, Carlberg M, Hansson Mild K. Pooled analysis of case-control studies on malignant brain tumours and the use of mobile and cordless phones including living and deceased subjects. *International Journal of Oncology* 2011; 38(5):1465–1474. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
  15. Lonn S, Ahlbom A, Hall P, Feychting M. Long-term mobile phone use and brain tumor risk. *American Journal of Epidemiology* 2005; 161(6):526–535. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
  16. Aydin D, Feychting M, Schüz J, et al. Mobile phone use and brain tumors in children and adolescents: a multicenter case-control study. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* 2011; 103:1–13. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
  17. Inskip PD, Hoover RN, Devesa SS. Brain cancer incidence trends in relation to cellular telephone use in the United States. *Neuro-Oncology* 2010; 12(11):1147–1151. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
  18. Deltour I, Johansen C, Auvinen A, et al. Time trends in brain tumor incidence rates in Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden, 1974–2003. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* 2009; 101(24):1721–1724. [[PubMed Abstract](#)]
  19. U.S. Federal Communications Commission (2010). [Wireless](#). Washington, D.C. Retrieved August 12, 2011.
  20. U.S. Federal Communications Commission. (n.d.) [FCC Encyclopedia: Specific Absorption Rate \(SAR\) for Cellular Telephones](#). Retrieved August 12, 2011.
  21. Howlader N, Noone AM, Krapcho M, et al. (2011). [SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975–2008](#). Bethesda, MD: National Cancer Institute. Retrieved August 12, 2011.



**Cell Phones and Cancer Risk, continued...**

professionals, cancer researchers, advocates, and the public.

# # #

**Related NCI materials and Web pages:**

- [Magnetic Field Exposure and Cancer](#) Fact Sheet
- [Cancer Causes and Risk Factors](#) Home Page

**How can we help?**

We offer comprehensive research-based information for patients and their families, health

- **Call** NCI’s Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)
- **Visit** us at <http://www.cancer.gov> or <http://www.cancer.gov/espanol>
- **Chat** using LiveHelp, NCI’s instant messaging service, at <http://www.cancer.gov/livehelp>
- **E-mail** us at [cancergovstaff@mail.nih.gov](mailto:cancergovstaff@mail.nih.gov)
- **Order** publications at <http://www.cancer.gov/publications> or by calling 1-800-4-CANCER
- **Get help** with quitting smoking at 1-877-44U-QUIT (1-877-448-7848)

**Cell Phones and Cancer Risk, continued...**

***August 6, 1965 – Voting Rights Act outlaws the discriminatory literacy tests that had been used to prevent African Americans from voting, finally fully extending suffrage to African American women***

***Test Your Knowledge***

**True or False**

***To vote you must be:***

- 18 years old
- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of Minnesota for 30 days immediately preceding election
- Registered to vote

Answer on page 18

## Redistricting Community Meetings Submitted by Aggie Leitheiser

### Redistricting Community Meetings – Congressional District 5

The Minnesota Citizens Redistricting Commission held public meetings in every congressional district to gather input, both written and in person, about the principles that should be used to guide their decision-making. One proposed outcome of this process is to set the stage for real redistricting reform by creating a successful model of how redistricting can be done differently and fairly -- in an independent and transparent manner that allows for meaningful citizen input.

This is a collaborative process with considerable leadership by LWVMN. The topics at the 5th District included the value of maintaining neighborhoods and municipal lines when possible and to not break up communities so they don't have a voice; special populations, including economic development with emerging areas; rethinking the 6th district boundaries; making each congressional district look like a "little Minnesota" The commission will begin drawing 3 maps at the end of August and then do another set of community meetings - dates/places not set yet. Their final project will be offered to the courts that will be making the final decisions. An email with information about the second round of meetings will be distributed to the members' mailing list when it becomes available.

## Observer Reports

Observer Coordinator: Judith Cook 952-928-9846

**Judy Cook is coordinating the 2011 – 2012 Observer Reports. If you can attend a City Council Meeting or School Board meeting and type up a brief review of the meeting, please contact Judy at the number listed above. Remember to wear your pin at the meetings – our presence at the meetings is noted and appreciated.**

Answer

Test Your Knowledge

To vote you must be:

- 18 years old
- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of Minnesota for **20 days** immediately preceding election
- Registered to vote

**LWVSLP 2011 – 2012 Calendar  
Published 9/1/2011**

<b>Date / Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Assigned / Host</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>Getting Ready</b>	
<b>August 2, 2011 6 pm</b>	<b>Program Planning Meeting Location: Aggie's Home</b>	<b>Aggie Leitheiser</b>
<b>August 13, 2011</b>	<b>Candidate Forum Training</b>	<b>Call Aggie for information</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Kick Off The Year Right</b>	
<b>September 6, 2011 7 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting Eilseen's Home</b>	<b>Eilseen Knisley</b>
<b>September 13, 2011</b>	<b>Public Hearing on Redistricting Maps Location: tbd</b>	
<b>September 14, 2011 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Census Location: Parkshore Card Room</b>	<b>Aggie/Barbara</b>
<b>September 15, 2011 7 pm</b>	<b>General Meeting Topic: Census Location: City Hall</b>	<b>Aggie Leitheiser</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Election Forum</b>	
<b>October 4, 2011</b>	<b>Board Meeting Debbie's Home</b>	<b>Debbie Blake</b>
<b>October 12, 2011 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Green Cities CD Location: Parkshore Card Room</b>	<b>Barbara Aslakson</b>
<b>October 13 or 14</b>	<b>Movie Night "The Help"</b>	
<b>October 20, 2011</b>	<b>Candidate Forum</b>	<b>Eilseen Knisley</b>
<b>October 26, 2011</b>	<b>Candidate Forum</b>	<b>Eilseen Knisley</b>
<b>November</b>		
<b>November 1, 2011</b>	<b>Board Meeting Dorothy's New Home</b>	<b>Dorothy Karlson</b>
<b>November 5, 2011</b>	<b>West Metro Location:</b>	
<b>November 9, 2011 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: National Study on Education Location: Parkshore Card Room</b>	<b>Barbara/Barb Person and Dorothy Karlson</b>
<b>November 17, 2011 7 pm</b>	<b>Unit 3 Meeting Topic: National Study on Education Location:</b>	<b>Barb Person and Dorothy Karlson</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Lively Issues</b>	
<b>December 6, 2011</b>	<b>Board Meeting Eilseen's Home</b>	<b>Eilseen Knisley</b>
<b>December 14, 2011 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Lively Issues Location: Parkshore Card Room</b>	<b>Barbara Aslakson/ Aggie Leitheiser</b>
<b>December 15, 2011</b>	<b>Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Lively Issues Location: Aggie's</b>	<b>Aggie Leitheiser</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>Staying Connected</b>	
<b>January 3, 2012</b>	<b>Board Meeting Barb's Home</b>	<b>Barb Person</b>
<b>January 11, 2012 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Location: Parkshore Card Room</b>	

<b>January 21, 2012</b>	<b>Legislative Interviews</b>	
<b>February</b>	<b>Black History Month</b>	
<b>February 7, 2012</b>	<b>Board Meeting Judy's Home</b>	<b>Judy Cook</b>
<b>February 15, 2012 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Redistricting and What's Happening Location: Parkshore Card Room</b>	<b>Barbara Aslakson/Allyson Sheldrew</b>
<b>February 16, 2012</b>	<b>General Meeting Topic: Redistricting and What's Happening Location: City Hall</b>	<b>Allyson Sheldrew</b>
<b>March</b>		
<b>March 6, 2012</b>	<b>Board Meeting Location: Aggie's Home</b>	<b>Aggie Leitheiser</b>
<b>March 14, 2012 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Met Council Location: Parkshore Card Room</b>	<b>Barbara / Dorothy</b>
<b>March 15, 2012</b>	<b>Unit 3 Meeting Topic: Met Council Location: Dorothy's Home</b>	<b>Dorothy Karlson</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Past And Future</b>	
<b>April 3, 2012</b>	<b>Board Meeting Location: Deb's Home</b>	<b>Deb Brinkman</b>
<b>April 21, 2012</b>	<b>58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Topic: Voter ID and Legislative Update Location: Minneapolis Golf Club</b>	
<b>May</b>	<b>Celebrate St. Louis Park</b>	
<b>May 1, 2012</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	
<b>May 9, 2012 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Unit 2 Meeting Topic: Recycling / Rain gardens Location: Parkshore Card Room</b>	<b>Barbara Aslakson</b>
<b>May 17, 2012</b>	<b>General Meeting Topic: Recycling / Rain gardens Location: West End Community Room</b>	<b>Barbara Aslakson</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Community Outreach</b>	
<b>June 16, 2012</b>	<b>Parktacular</b>	
<b>July</b>	<b>Time Off</b>	
<b>August</b>	<b>Getting Ready</b>	
<b>August 2, 2012</b>	<b>Planning Meeting</b>	<b>Aggie Leitheiser</b>

Published 9/2011

**LWV SLP OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2011-2012****OFFICERS:**

President: Aggie Leitheiser  
 Vice President: Debbie Blake  
 Secretary: Allyson Sheldrew  
 Treasurer/W.Metro: Barb Person

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Observer/Publicity: Judy Cook  
 Voter Service: Eilseen Knisely  
 Membership: Judy Cook  
 CMAL: Dorothy Karlson  
 Voter Editor/Web: Deb Brinkman



**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 (household) \$70.00

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

Judy Cook  
 4010 Highwood Lane  
 St. Louis Park, MN 55416  
 (952-928-9846) [jcook422@comcast.net](mailto:jcook422@comcast.net)



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

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

Judy Cook, Membership  
 (952-928-9846  
[jcook42@comcast.net](mailto:jcook42@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. <http://www.lwvmn.org/local/Leagues/SLP>*