



LWVMpls VOTER

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DECEMBER 2009-JANUARY 2010

January: Program Planning

It's hard to believe we will soon be in a new year. Please mark your 2010 calendar for our Program Planning meeting on Saturday, January 9, at 9:00 a.m. This is our opportunity to come together and discuss important issues in preparation for the city-wide convention in June.

At this January meeting, we will have the privilege of hearing from LWVMN and Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) guests, Deborah Price and Ady Wickstrom. We will also be hearing updates from active Minneapolis League committees such as City Government and Healthy Legacy. The League needs your ideas for how to maximize our effectiveness in making the world a better place, so your participation is important.

There is a lot to do at this program planning meeting for 2010-2011. It is a time to review all compelling issues, decide on suitable approaches for action, and, finally, to make recommendations. The League plays a crucial role not only in voter education and enfranchisement, but also in the formation of sound public policies, and your help is vital. As members of the LWVMpls, we will be modeling democratic methods in gathering together to consider issues and make appropriate decisions. Come to have your voice heard and help the League develop a vision for the future.

Our website, www.lwvmpls.org, is a good place to check on current positions and committee activities. Please use the form mailed to members to share your thoughts on new programs, and bring the form to the meeting. If you are unable to attend, please mail it to the office.

Program Planning Meeting
Saturday, January 9
8:30-11:00 a.m.
St. Mary's
Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN

A Continental breakfast buffet will be available at 8:30 a.m. for early arrivals. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m.

If you wish to bring along a non-perishable food item, I will see that it gets to a food shelf. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you there.

~Kate Donahue, Program Chair
kate@oldyak.com, 612.378.9538

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From the President

Deborah Jindra

LWV is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Be-Leaguered

It may have been a quiet week in Lake Wobegon but October was a tough month for LWVMpls. The cold and dreary weather didn't help matters. We headed into the busy election season short of volunteers and leadership in key portfolios. Margit Berg and Lynn Pepple stepped up to the plate to arrange numerous candidate forums and staff a voter hotline. Kudos to them both for seeing the need and following through so well.

Unfortunately, some members of the community and some candidates were unclear about our role in the forums. Accusations of bias are particularly difficult when we are working so hard, mostly with unpaid volunteers, to provide non-partisan information and candidate events to the community. We need to remember that candidates get a little stressed as the election gets closer. We did get good coverage from the press and generally appreciative support from neighborhoods for the seven forums in which we participated.

I also fielded calls and e-mails in October from those who were disappointed that we did not sponsor a mayoral forum. We tried to find co-sponsors for a forum but with Ranked Choice Voting resulting in no primary, eleven candidates on the ballot and an incumbent who most likely would not participate, it came down to the question of where to channel our scarce resources. It made me realize just how important what we do is to making democracy work and that no one else fills the same niche. We need to convey that message to funders so that we can be financially secure and respond more effectively to requests for election services in the future.

We also had a dust-up over using our name on campaign literature without our approval. The blogosphere, along with my home phone, lit up with members' concerns and public reaction. We're happy that people value our opinion enough to view us as a positive, but we need to control our message and image and do not want our reputation as non-partisan called into question. Regard-

ing the Amendment to change the make up of the Board of Estimate and Taxation, many of our members were unclear of exactly where we stood on what appeared on the ballot.

This incident brings up several issues. Who speaks for the LWV? How do we arrive at our positions? We need to make

clear to other organizations that any overtly political mailings must get our board's approval. Additionally, our members should be informed of action we're taking on our positions. When we take consensus, we need to make sure we understand the ramifications. It is difficult to think ahead several years, but perhaps we should build in a "what does this mean for action" piece when we adopt a position. Of course, there is nothing like hindsight to point up things we should have thought of before.

I have been President for nearly six months now and look forward to 2010 as we continue to promote our 90th Anniversary. The rest of LWV is now catching up with Minneapolis as we celebrate. A wonderful group has been assembled by Karlynn Fronck to help raise funds to sustain us into the next 90 years. When we hit rough seas the last few months, I reflected on the many women and men before us who had weathered numerous storms. We're still here and vital to this community.

Some luck lies in not getting what you thought you wanted but getting what you have, which once you have got it you may be smart enough to see is what you would have wanted had you known.



**Deborah Jindra
President**

~Garrison Keillor

League Members Active with Candidate Forums

One of the major services of the LWVMpls this fall was to help provide candidate information through candidate forums. We recruited moderators, question sorters, and timekeepers for nine forums throughout Minneapolis and directly sponsored and arranged for four additional forums. The latter four forums were held for races where there was no incumbent, where there was a strong contest, or where no other group was having one.

Thanks go to Unit 1 and Alice Moorman who set up a forum for District 6 Park Board candidates, Unit 48 and Jennifer Johnson that arranged for a forum in Ward 10, Unit 53 and Marilyn Dean that staffed a forum for Ward 5 City Council candidates at the Capri Theater, and to Unit 25 and Carol Green that sponsored the forum for City Council candidates in Ward 1. There were also speakers about Ranked Choice Voting at each of the forums.

Those that moderated forums deserve a big thank you! They are: Polly Keppel, Martha Allen, Jennifer Schaefer, Keesha Gaskins, Pat Kovel-Jarboe, Monica Nilsson, Gail Hanson, Janet Gendler, Alice Moormann, and Gerry Sell.

Those to be thanked for sorting questions and timekeeping are: Doug Flateau, Judy Farmer, Jan Midtbo, Pat Werner, Lynn Pepple, Nancy Albrecht, Peggy Pluimer, Kristin Batson, Margaret Purcell, Deborah Jindra, Marion Hall, Mary Claire Schultz, Ann Pugliese, and Karlynn Fronck.

Providing nonpartisan moderators and staff for candidate forums is much appreciated by the groups with whom we work. Candidates often tell groups they will participate only if the League is involved. In addition, sponsoring groups give the League a stipend for our services which helps our bottom line. Hats off to all of you who helped in some way!



LWVMPLS Position Open

LWVMpls is seeking an enthusiastic, experienced individual for a half-time position as Program Manager. Responsibilities include working cooperatively with the Board, Administrative Manager and project coordinators to foster volunteer participation, maintain program priorities and assure adequate finances.

Successful candidates will have experience with LWV; organizational, communication, and networking skills; experience working with volunteers; financial management expertise; and computer competence. Salary range: \$18-25, with holiday and vacation benefits.

To receive a full job description or to apply, please contact the Hiring Committee Chair: Alice Moormann at akmoormann@isd.net. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

What is the Position of LWVMpls on.....?

The answers are now on our website, www.lwvmpls.org. Members, prospective members, and the general public can find our positions on a wide range of local issues, including housing, education, parks, city government and many more.

At City Convention in 2008, members approved a project to update our publication of positions, Goals for Good Government. The document had been printed in a three ring binder and was revised occasionally. Our new publication is online for all to see, with the expectation that it will be updated yearly. The new title is Program for Action.

Recent studies have been added to the lists, as well as the new positions resulting from the member consensus process. Positions were deleted that members had previously voted to drop. The new format will also allow readers to see a listing of our Positions in Brief, which is an overview of our statements on the issues. With a click of the mouse, one can now locate the detailed positions, pertinent studies, and up to 50 years of history and LWV Action on a subject.

Wanted!

Your ideas, your dreams, and, oh yes, your body!

The nominating committee for LWVMpls is looking for candidates for Officer and Board positions. Are you ready to take that next step in your League involvement or do you know someone you would like to see working their special magic on the LWVMpls Board?

Members of the committee will be available to discuss positions and responsibilities of the officer and Board positions. All you have to do is make a phone call or send an e-mail indicating your interest and the nominating committee will do the rest.

For information, contact Carol Green at carol.green43@gmail.com or 612.789.6314.

The document was also improved by adding cross references among sections, plus format changes to improve searches and readability.

For LWV positions on state issues, contact www.lwvmn.org, and for national issues, www.lwv.org.

We thank Polly Keppel and Janet Gendler for their contributions to the project, Alice Moormann and Patricia Kovel-Jarboe for editing, and Deborah Jindra and Julaine Heit for web set-up.

Does LWVMpls support:

- ✓ A full time City Council?
- ✓ Dispersal of subsidized housing throughout the City?
- ✓ All day kindergarten?

Check it out online!

~Carol Green
~Ann Pugliese

The Susan Bee Available Online

The first issue of The Susan Bee, the LWVUS biannual newsletter, is now available at www.lwv.org, click For Members, click on Recent News and Updates.

The newsletter contains short updates on our work and provides the location on the national website for more detailed and timely information. State and local Leagues may disseminate information through their Voters.

If you see something on the national website that you think members would like to see, call the office and they will alert the **Voter** editor.

Census Resources Available from LWVMN

LWVMN recently issued a list of resources to learn more about the 2010 Census. You can find information about issues and events at <http://www.stateofdemocracymn.org/>

Census FAQs

The Census has released a list of frequently asked questions at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/how/questions.php>

Undercount Maps

FairVote 2020 has produced a tool that allows you to view areas that are considered to have an undercount. The information is based on a analysis that used 2000 data. The map, at FairVote2020.org, has a range of views, allowing you to zoom down to the census tract. If you would like assistance in finding areas of undercount around your city, please send an email to afaitek@lwvmn.org.



Resources for Teachers & Families

Scholastic has created a list of Census resources that can be used for teachers at <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3752296> and families at <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3752296>. These resources include large-scale maps and games.

LWVMN Census Presentations

LWVMN is currently doing presentations on the census, its key issues, and the impacts it will have on local communities. If you are interested in having LWVMN present in your community, please send an email to amoen@lwvmn.org.

Send us your Census Events

If you would like your census activity posted, send an

e-mail at afaitek@lwvmn.org and we'll post it. To find out about upcoming census events, visit the Census and Redistricting Timeline.

If you are interested in having LWVMN make a presentation in your community, please send an email to amoen@lwvmn.org.

Census Alert: Do You Fly South for the Winter?

This is important because Minnesota is at risk of losing a Congressional seat with the next re-apportionment! Please do not fill in the Census form that comes to your vacation address in March! You should register in Minnesota.

Download "Snowbirds: What you need to know" at <http://www.mn2010census.org/documents/SnowbirdsHandout.pdf>. Get all the information from the Minnesota State Demographic Center detailing how you can still answer the Census as a Minnesotan even if you are not here to receive the form by Census Day.

The Post Office will not forward the questionnaire to you at your snowbird location. If you do not have a Census questionnaire when you return, please contact your city to find out where you can get another copy. If you need further assistance, please call our office, 651.201.2473.

~Jeff Schneider
Manager, Special Projects and Research
Community Planning & Economic Development
City of Minneapolis

Development Corner

Thank you to the following members and friends of the LWVMpls who have contributed since the last issue.

Deborah Jindra
Pat Scott

Thank You!

Office Help: Deborah Jindra, Janet Gendler, Marilyn Dean,

Election Hotline: Amanda Tempel, Lynn Pepple, Catherine Dorr, Connie Cameron

Voter Proofreaders: Pat Kovel-Jarboe, Julia Wallace, Deborah Jindra, Sharon Emery

Candidate Forums and Election Services: Margit Berg, Jan Midtbo, and Lynn Pepple

Education Materials: Judy Farmer

90th Anniversary Planning: Karlynn Fronck

Hiring Committee: Alice Moorman, Jan Midtbo, and Mary Katherine Johnson

Year of Water Planning: Kay Kessel

Fresh Air Radio Appearance: Joan Niemiec

We're on Facebook!

LWVMpls now has its own Facebook page. Become a fan! If you're already a fan, invite your Facebook friends to become fans too.



Looking for Lively Conversation?

No January Unit Meetings, please attend the Program Planning Meeting (See p. 1). If you are interested in attending a unit meeting in the future, or if the time your current unit meets has become inconvenient, please call one of the following contacts for more information.

Unit 1

Second Monday, 7:15 p.m.
Contact: Lindsey Thomas, 612.824.4489

Unit 11

Second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Contacts: Jan Midtbo, 612.926.0954
Judy Walter, 612.927.5847

Unit 25/29

Second Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
Contacts: Jane Starr 612.378.2590
Harriet Johnson 612.331.5669

Unit 48

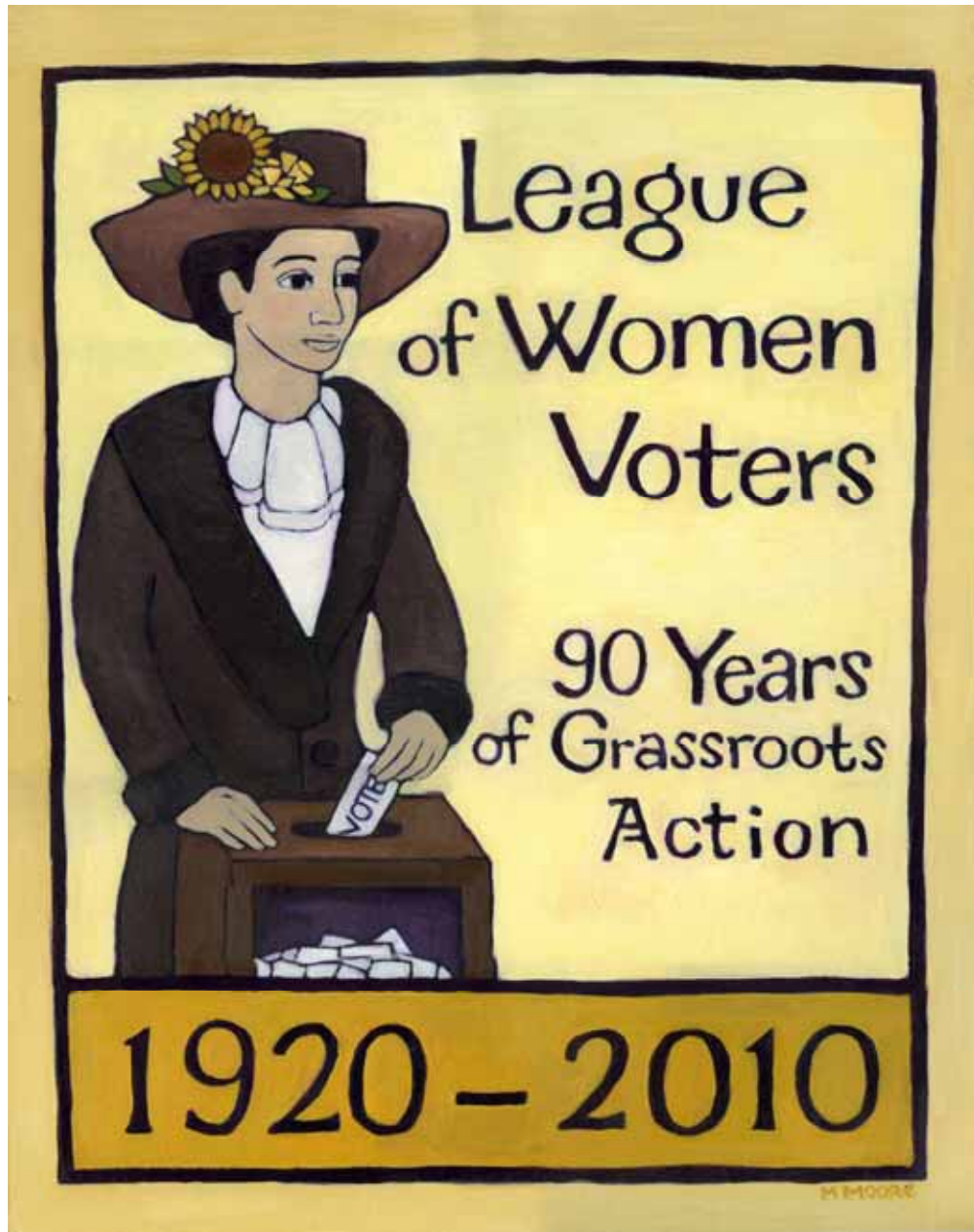
Third Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Jennifer Johnson, 612.377.6084

Unit 49

Contacts: Gerry Sell, 612.823.3248
Marilyn Kelly, 612.824.6404

Unit 53

Third Tuesday, Social, 7:30 p.m., Meeting, 8:00 p.m.
Contacts: Elaine Lindstrom, 612.377.3262
Sally Pundt, 612.377.3529



Artist Celebrates LWV

Local artist Megan Moore has created a wonderful image for our 90th Anniversary. This commission is a gift to the membership from the 2009/2010 Board of Directors and will be used throughout the next year to celebrate our long history in this community.

Megan has captured the spirit of 1920 and given it a modern twist. Watch for a special announcement of a formal unveiling and an opportunity to get a signed, limited-edition poster. From the early suffragists to 21st century activists we have a long tradition of grassroots action. There's nothing like art and politics to stimulate lively conversation as we kick off our second year of celebration to honor our history and secure our future.

~Deborah Jindra

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MISSION

The League of Women Voters,
a nonpartisan political organization,
encourages informed and active
participation in government, works to
increase understanding of major policy
issues, and influences public policy through
education and advocacy.

Deborah Jindra, President
Ginny Craig, VOTER Editor

We're on the Web!
www.lwvmpls.org



Upcoming Events
Save the Date!

Sat., Jan.9
8:30-11:00 a.m.
Program Planning Meeting
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Ave. So.

Wed., Jan. 20
7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting
LWVMpls Office



Commemorative 90th Anniversary 2010
Calendars are available from the LWVMpls
office.

Calendars have been redesigned but still
have lots of room to keep track of your busy
life. Get yours now! Buy extras for gifts.

Download an order form at www.lwvmpls.org