



# LWVmpls VOTER

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## City Convention 2010

### Managing the City Well Has Been Process of Incremental Changes

*How many studies has the League of Women Voters done on the organization of Minneapolis city government?*



Jay Kiedrowski has ideas for a well-managed city

League members guessed low at the trivia question posed by keynote speaker Jay Kiedrowski at the June 3 LWVmpls City Convention at the Minnesota Church Center. By Kiedrowski's count, it's 10 with the first one in 1923.

Kiedrowski, senior fellow at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, was

invited to speak on the topic of charter change. Not usually a sought-after dinner conversation, but his humorous observations about history, Minnesota voters, inside political stories and facts got laughs from an audience familiar with city government and city voters.

*When did the voters of Minneapolis first start rejecting any management of the city?*

In 1866, 11 years after incorporation by the territorial legislature.

Kiedrowski's history with the City Charter goes back to 1973. He got involved at the request of League member Nancy Witta, who then was the

**Convention Cont. on p. 6**

### Water Forums Realized A Goal When They Attracted Department of Health

We have completed the three Healthy Legacy water forums that our committee of co-sponsoring organizations ambitiously planned for March, April and May 2010. Our overarching title was Protecting Our Water — Protecting Our Health, and it was our goal to inform our LWV members and other Minneapolis citizens about toxins in the water and ways that we can work as individuals and communities to conserve our water.

The impact began to be seen right after the first forum. The Minnesota Department of Health recognized our efforts and has invited members of the League and other sponsoring organizations to meet with it for a discussion of how "our troubled waters" affect our health.

Our League benefited from collaboration with the Freshwater Society and its leadership in engaging several high profile speakers without cost. Through the forums we were able to reach out to new audiences offering presentations of expert scientific research by Minnesota leaders.

Sam Lieberman, free-lance writer and water advocate, picked up our passion and participated on the committee. Lieberman wrote the Star Tribune article titled "The world over, women seem to be more sensitive to the threats of water pollution," published May 3. It publicized the work of the League as it described how women within the

**Water Cont. on p. 4**

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## From the President

Deborah Jindra

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



**Deborah Jindra**  
**Outgoing President**

### **Educate Advocate Reform**

That is the new slogan from LWV Minnesota. These three words will be used when the new state website is launched this month, and they are printed on marketing materials

available to local Leagues. At the State Council May 1st, the young members of the LWVMN staff presented an exciting new format for the website. Not only does the fresh design look great, but the team making it happen was inspiring. Seeing their commitment and listening to plans for getting LWV's message out to new and old members through multiple communications formats gave me renewed confidence in our organization.

Keesha Gaskins, LWVMN Executive Director, is a powerful and engaging speaker and during her presentation at Council she talked about the importance of promoting our "brand." She showed a short You Tube video that I found very enlightening. (Go to You Tube and search on Socialnomics.) This video highlights new social media. One of the items that stuck with me from the fast-paced images (to the music of Fatboy Slim!) is that Facebook can now be considered the fourth largest country in the world! We in Minneapolis also need to reach out through Facebook, Twitter and whatever else comes along if we are going to continue our mission into the 21st Century. Jennifer Bennett and Kelsey Johnson have been doing a great job of updating our pages.

In the current polarized political atmosphere where can voters go for information they can trust? Ours is a voice that is well-respected. With everyone blogging and bloviating, can any

sense be made? We need to maximize our key areas of competency while tapping new audiences. We can build on our strengths while taking our message to the techno generation.

The water forums held in March, April, and May are the perfect example of how our members are ahead of the curve and willing to put their hearts and hands to work to educate the public, advocate for sound policy, and reform the system through informed decision-making. The water series was both frightening and reassuring: We face an enormous problem, but those who participated in the forums were positive we could make a difference if we work together. The partnerships forged by Kay Kessel's committee will strengthen our move to action on water topics and future programs.

As I wind down my term as President, I have been reflecting on the ups and downs of the year. We have faced many obstacles with finances, staffing, and flagging membership. But each time discouragement started to take hold, someone from LWV stepped up to make things better. I am proud to be part of a group of the smartest, most creative, and most dedicated women (and men) I know. Thank you all for picking up the pieces and going the extra mile when things looked dark. Candidate forums were organized, moderators found, and program information sent out to our members. The Directors and Committee Chairs have been extraordinary, and President-elect Marilyn Dean hung in there even when the going got rough. I wish her much success as she steps into this role and know that all of our members will support her as we move forward to a healthy, vibrant 2011.

**Meet New President Marilyn Dean,  
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## Protecting Our Water — Protecting Our Health

### Forum 3: The Big Picture Plus Personal Ways To Use Water Wisely

The third of a series of League symposia, held May 8 at Mayflower Congregational Church, provided those attending with both the big picture of the world's water and the more personal ways to use it wisely. More than 75 people heard Dr. Jonathan Foley from the University of Minnesota's Institute on Environment discuss the growing scarcity of fresh water.

The ratio of people to water resources, he pointed out, has changed through the centuries as population increased and food production expanded. By one estimate there were about 300 million people 2,000 years ago and there are 6 billion today. Dr. Foley said agriculture accounts for 70 percent of the water used globally and, along with climate change, results in problems such as land and soil degradation and declining water quality and supply.

He recommended more cooperation between countries and policies that take environment into account. Moreover, by encouraging entrepreneurs who improve efficiency, he said, we can discover ways to conserve both energy and water and in the process create new jobs.

Sam Lieberman, a freelance writer and member of the symposium's planning committee, spoke next, emphasizing ways to manage our water supply. Our leaders, he believes, need to speak out honestly about our water situation to counteract the doubt spread by offenders who continue to lobby against changes that encourage protection and conservation of our water.

He finds it incredible that the cost of water doesn't reflect its value and availability. When there are no laws demanding conservation and costs don't encourage it, no one conserves. We need to save for a dry day, he

quipped.

The third speaker, freshwater ecologist Jenny Winkelman, stressed the importance of keeping our water supply free of contaminants especially the toxins that are not removed during the treatment process. Her organization, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO), partners with regional authorities and state agencies to monitor and help in their water quality efforts. The organization's outreach arm has developed an educational DVD for the general public and has translated it into several languages to accommodate new immigrants. MWMO meets with community residents to create a network of people and resources to encourage change in how we think about and use water.

Members of the audience had the opportunity in four breakout sessions to learn about rain gardens, water conservation in the home, water efficiency outdoors, and an example of green development, Creekside Commons, an apartment complex being built on the Mayflower Church block in southwest Minneapolis.

The symposium wrapped up with a talk and rousing rendition of "We Rise" by Gemma Bulos, founder of the Million Voice Choir and A Single Drop, a nonprofit humanitarian organization to address the safe water crisis.

Both before and after the formal program, forum participants circled the tables for products and information provided by environmental co-sponsor groups.

Kudos go to the League's Legacy Committee for three well organized, truly informational forums.

**~Marion Hall, LWVMpls Member**

## Water, Cont. from p. 1

League of Women Voters, the Women's Environmental Institute and others are becoming a coalition of leaders focused on safe water. Our forums also incorporated artistic expressions of water advocates at the Katherine B. Nash Gallery and a May 8 appearance by Gemma Bulos, international leader on providing clean water to third world communities and founder of the Million Voice Choir. She wrote a song called We Rise based on the concept, "It takes a single drop of water to start a wave, one person to initiate social change."

Several LWV locals around the state also have been focused on water. The Duluth LWV is completing a study on Lake Superior, and Darrel Gerber, Clean Water Action, has worked extensively with that League. White Bear Lake/North Oaks has done a study. Minnetonka League has worked

with Freshwater Society to sample their water in Minnetonka.

The Freshwater Society designated 2010 as the Year of Water and is co-sponsoring lectures throughout the year on pollution of lakes and rivers. Water has garnered a lot of attention. The most recent issue of National Geographic was on water. The Nobel Conference at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., last fall was on water quality.

With the information the studies and forums provided, the research of scientists in our midst, we are prepared to be strong advocates for water protection in our speech and actions.

~ Kay Kessel  
Healthy Legacy Coalition Chair

## A Snapshot of Information from the Healthy Legacy Forums on Water

We heard from Kathy Lee, U.S. Geological Survey, about her sampling and analysis of water and sediment in several studies of the Mississippi River in Minnesota. She found endocrine disruptor compounds (EDCs) in multiple places.

Dr. David Wallinga presented the many diseases and health risks that research has found regarding these EDCs.

State Rep. Paul Gardner introduced legislation this year to establish drop-off programs for unused medications to keep them out of landfills and sewer systems. It was signed into law in April.

Lois Eberhart, City of Minneapolis, spoke about the watershed in Minneapolis and efforts to filter storm water run off and educate citizens about techniques to hold water in our yards for ground penetration rather than sewer collection.

Rep. Jean Wagenius described the Clean Water Legacy bill and how the dollars are being used.

- ◆ \$6.5 million to restore conservation easements for buffers near lakes and rivers
- ◆ \$7.5 million to increase groundwater testing and protection
- ◆ 15 million to speed up testing of lakes and rivers

- ◆ \$18 million to clean up lakes and rivers already designated as polluted
- ◆ \$33 million to waste water treatment grants to cities to reduce discharges of phosphorus and other pollutants
- ◆ \$9 million to combat agricultural pollution by monitoring pesticides and fertilizers in groundwater

Jonathan Foley, Director of the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota addressed the looming collision: population and pollution.

Sam Lieberman described conservation practices in Israel, where private citizens do not own the water and suggested the United States could learn from their public campaigns to promote water conservation.

Jenny Winkelman from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization is an environmentalist and educator. She described efforts to reach out to new communities and learning to talk about water in terms pertinent to their experiences.

~Kay Kessel

## As a Moderator or a Candidate, There's Training to Guide the Way

### Forum and Moderator Workshop Aug. 7

LWVMN Education Fund will hold a Candidate Forum and Moderator Training Workshop Aug. 7 in Bloomington in preparation for the 2010 election. The workshop will review the basics of candidate forums/debates, League of Women Voters style. If you're new to Voter Service, it's the place to learn the ropes.

The workshop is free of charge to members of the League of Women Voters. A box lunch can be purchased for \$12. Non LWV members can attend the training for \$45.00 (which includes lunch).

For questions about the workshop, contact AMoen@lwvmn.org; to reserve a spot call the office at 651.224.5445.

### Minnesota GO RUN set for Sept. 10

The White House Project, with a mission to advance women's leadership in all communities, has scheduled a Go Run Weekend training Sept. 10-12 in Duluth, Minn. The training aims to demystify the political process and inspire a diverse group of women to seek leadership positions. Go Run teaches the nuts and bolts of running for political office — communications, fundraising, and campaigning — skills valuable at work and in the community as well. Women from more than 50 cities and towns across Minnesota, Wisconsin, North

Dakota and Iowa are expected to attend the Duluth training. Go Run makes training available to women of all income levels. Scholarships are available.

Advance sessions will be held for candidates and previous Go Run Alumnae.

Register at: <https://secure2.convio.net/twhp/site/SSurvey>, click on 2010 Minnesota Go Run.

### Debate Boot Camp for Candidates Aug. 15

The White House Project in partnership with the Augsburg College Urban Debate League has scheduled a Debate Boot Camp for candidates and campaign managers for Aug. 15-16 in the Twin Cities area.

The training focuses on the ability to speak persuasively with purpose, and to debate and defend issues. It is geared to women with a public speaking role in an upcoming election — candidates, campaign managers and ballot measure spokeswomen.

It meets 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Aug. 15, and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Aug. 16.

To reserve your space, e-mail Liz Johnson right away, [ejohnson@thewhitehouseproject.org](mailto:ejohnson@thewhitehouseproject.org).

## Introducing New LWVMpls President Marilyn Dean

Marilyn Dean has been a longtime member of Unit 53 in Bryn Mawr (with a break of several years) returning to active duty in 2006. She has served on the Education Committee, co-chair of her Unit in 2009. The same year she was chair of the Speakers Bureau.

She has been chair of the Uptown Art Fair Volunteer Committee, active in school PTAs, her children's sports clubs and her church.

Marilyn's employment includes reserve teacher at Bryn Mawr Elementary where she received the Unsung Hero Award and a Certificate of Appreciation from the YWCA. Previous employment includes 14 years at the University of Minnesota as Admission and Placement Director of the Law School. She now considers herself "retired."



Past President Deborah Jindra, left, and President Marilyn Dean expressed appreciation for each other.

## Convention, Cont. from p. 1

head of the Charter Commission. In 1973 he wrote a report recommending the creation of Planning and Budget directors under the direction of the mayor. After the recommendation passed in 1977 (LWV supported it), he was hired as the first budget director under the mayor's new budgeting functions. He has kept his eye on city government ever since — as an insider and from the outside.

One of the courses Kiedrowski teaches at the Humphrey Institute is Organizational Performance and Change and he spoke on the principles of organizational excellence and the purpose of a charter. He continues to put these principles to work in an ad hoc committee he helped organize with former council members Paul Ostrow and Joan Niemiec. The group is working toward a well-managed city government that is simple, workable and responsive. The committee has expanded since voters rejected the elimination of the Board of Estimate

and Taxation last year, and members now include Joan Niemiec (not representing the League), Don Fraser, Martin Sabo and Board of Estimate and Taxation member Carol Becker among others.

When asked what Minneapolis should do with its charter, Kiedrowski said the strategy that's working is incremental tinkering until it resembles something that's good (because voters will reject comprehensive reform). A city manager would bring more accountability.

When asked how the League should be organized to meet the principles of organizational excellence he had mentioned, he gracefully skated past open water, saying an organization is only as good as its people. Minneapolis has managed to do so well despite a lousy system because of its good people.

~Sharon Emery for the Voter

## 2010 Bess Mlnarik Award Winner

Joan Higinbotham was honored with the 2010 Bess Mlnarik Award, presented by Kay Schimke, the 2009 recipient.



Joan Higinbotham, left, and Kay Schimke.

Joan has played major roles with the League of Women Voters. She served as President of the LWVMpls from 1983 to 1985 and League of Women Voters Minnesota from 1985 to 1989. She received the Hope Washburn Award from the state League for outstanding service to LWVMN. Joan became a member of the League of Women Voters Minneapolis Board of Advisors in 2003 and has generously shared her fundraising expertise as LWVMpls developed a legacy program and in her work on the LWVMpls 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. For many years Joan has moderated a weekly public affairs TV show on MTN cable, "We, the People."

Other nominees were Margit Berg, Janet Gendler, Julaine Heit and Lynn Pepple. Congratulations and thank you to all of them.

## Business Meeting Highlights

- ✓ The credentials report identified 56 members in attendance.
- ✓ The budget and the use of the Ann Duff Leadership Fund generated a suggestion by Ann Pugliese that an all-member meeting be held to talk about the League's financial future. The budget was approved without opposition. A direction to the board issued later asked the board to convene the suggested meeting .
- ✓ Margit Berg issued a call for moderators for candidate forums this summer. The primary is August 10.
- ✓ Program Co-Chair Kate Donahue introduced the Program recommendations for 2010-2011. A motion that there be no new studies passed unanimously and the Program was adopted.
- ✓ Directions to the Board included League observation of the Charter change ad hoc committee as soon as its work becomes public; presenting a public face of the League in local media monthly; establishing new immigrant dialogues, and identifying a communications person.

## Development Corner

### Consider a Gift of Stock

When making a gift to LWV Mpls consider the advantages of giving appreciated stock held for more than a year. (1) You will not have to report a taxable gain on the donated stock. (2) You are allowed to take the full market value of the stock as a deduction for income tax purposes. Please consult your tax advisor for details on your particular circumstances.

Donating stock is easy to do. Simply give instructions to your broker telling him/her the number of shares and the name of the stock. Ask her to transfer the stock to Charles Schwab & Co., acct. no. 3541 - 7928, n/o League of Women Voters of Minneapolis. Also mention the Schwab DTC number: 0164 Code 40.

Then call the LWVMpls. office (612.333.6319 ) and tell them what you have done. This call is important as it enables the League to know whose stock entered the account and then apply appropriate credit to the donor.

~Donald Hall, Treasurer

We thank the members and friends of the LWVMpls who have contributed since the last issue. We're sorry we can't include a full list in this issue but will publicly acknowledge your gifts in the next issue of the Voter.

### Thank You!

**Office Help:** Jennifer Bennett, Marilyn Dean, Kate Donahue, Karlynn Fronek, Janet Gendler, Carol Green, Julaine Heit, Don Hall, Glenda Larson, Dot Lilja, Elaine Lindstrom, Sally Pundt

**City Convention Coordinator:** Polly Keppel, Unit 1

**Strategic Planning:** Mary Katherine Johnson, Ann Pugliese

**Voter Mailing:** Deborah Jindra, Jennifer Bennett, Marilyn Dean

**Voter Proofreaders:** Ginny Craig, Pat Kovel-Jarboe, Deborah Jindra, Julia Wallace

**90th Anniversary:** Susan Reinhart, Jennifer Schaefer

### President Marilyn Dean's Message of Thanks to Outgoing President Deborah Jindra

We have a gift for you in recognition of the good work you have done as president this year. This has been a year filled with unforeseen personnel challenges and surprises. We commend you for meeting these challenges with dignity and grace.

There were some bright spots too. Some of the highlights of this year include:

- ✓ The Healthy Legacy Water Forums
- ✓ New members -- 20 from the Leaders of Today and Tomorrow (LOTT) program
- ✓ A well-attended School Board Breakfast
- ✓ 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fundraising activities
- ✓ A new LWVMpls Tote Bag with the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo

Thank you for all you have done.



Elaine Lindstrom, Glenda Larson and Sally Pundt of Unit 53 took command of the fundraising sales of the 90th Anniversary Grocery Totes at City Convention.

**League of Women Voters Minneapolis**  
**81 South 9th Street, Suite 335**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55402**  
Phone: 612.333.6319  
Fax: 612.333.6310  
Email: [vote@lwvmpls.org](mailto:vote@lwvmpls.org)  
Website [www.lwvmpls.org](http://www.lwvmpls.org)

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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 action and advocacy.

*Marilyn Dean, President*  
*Sharon Emery, **VOTER** Editor*

**We're on the Web!**

[www.lwvmpls.org](http://www.lwvmpls.org)

## Upcoming Events Save the Date!

**Sat., Aug. 7**

LWVMN Education Fund  
Candidate Forum/Moderator Training Workshop  
Bloomington, call Allie Moen, 651.224.5445

**Wed., Aug. 18**

Minnesota Public Radio Women's City Cabaret  
90 Years of a Woman's Right to Vote  
7:30 p.m.  
Fitzgerald Theater, St. Paul, MN

### Fall Briefing Papers

LWVMN is seeking League members to do briefing papers on two topics selected at the 2009 State Convention: Nuclear Energy and Great Lakes Compact.

If interested in being part of a four-member (or more) committee, please notify Deborah Price by July 1, 2010, at [dl.price@comcast.net](mailto:dl.price@comcast.net) or 763.476.1791

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