



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS**
ST. CLOUD AREA
Visit our Website: www.lwvsca.org

League Lines

March 2018

March Unit: League Advocacy in the MN Legislature

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 1:00-3:00 pm

Mississippi, St. Cloud Public Library
300 W St. Germain St. Cloud MN 56301



The second year of the 90th Session of the Minnesota Legislature is underway! Not only are our legislators back to work at the Capitol but so is our State League. Our Lobby and Observer Corp is 35 people strong and ready to be seen and heard on our very important democracy issues. League members from across the state will be heading to St. Paul on March 5, for LWVMN Day at the Capitol. All League members need to be involved in advocacy in the next three months! Nick Harper, Civic Engagement Manager for the LWVMN, will join us to talk about how the League and its members can make a real difference at the Capitol between now and May 21.



Dialogue & a Drink - Thursday, March 1st

Thursday, March 1, 2018, 5:00pm

Red Carpet Martini Lounge, 11-5th AVE S, St. Cloud

A conversation with Dave Kleis, Mayor of the City of St. Cloud **this Thursday!** If you have ever taken one of Mayor Kleis' trolley tours you know how much he loves history. However instead of looking back on the city, our conversation in March will look forward as he discusses long term planning for the City of St. Cloud.

Join us for great conversations. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres are available with the purchase of 2 drinks--which can be non-alcoholic.



LWVSCA Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 14, 2018, 4:30pm - 8:00pm

Best Western Plus Kelly Inn, downtown St Cloud

Cost will be \$25 per person. The Annual Meeting Supplement, out in mid-March, will have full details and RSVP information.

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LWVSCA Voter Registration Workshop

Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Home of Mary Kay Carle, 5821 Michael Ct, St. Cloud MN

All LWVSCA members are encouraged to help when voter registration opportunities occur. Workshop participants will discuss the basics of voting rights and how to help citizens register to vote. We hope all newer members will attend and that longer-term members will come and share their experiences. Refreshments will be served.

RSVP: via email to Sheila Ferguson.

Voter Service Team Updates

The General Election on November 6, 2018, will generate a lot of interest because of the governor's race and two open Senate seats in the U.S. Congress. The seat currently held by Senator Amy Klobuchar will be a new six-year term. Candidates running for the other Senate seat will be vying for the remainder of Al Franken's term (2020). Senator Tina Smith currently holds that office by special appointment. All Congressional House seats and House seats in the Minnesota legislature are up for election, as they are every two years. Plus, a full complement of local offices will be open, including Stearns County Sheriff.

With all that and more in mind, the Voter Service Team has met twice this year to begin reviewing the big picture and preparing for the candidate forums we will sponsor this fall. We've spent some time discussing various LWVSCA policies pertaining to non-partisan conduct. Once the filed candidates are known, we will make decisions about races to cover. Our goals will be to initiate communication as soon as possible and to strive for equal treatment of all candidates during the steps leading up to and including the forums themselves.

Moderator Training

Eventually, we will seek volunteers to fill job titles for forums, including moderators. Moderators are the persons in charge of conducting forums and, as such, they maintain order based on rules agreed upon in advance. They also read audience questions aloud and set the tone for a fair, open process. Sometimes moderators need to think on their feet when unexpected situations arise but, for the most part, our approach serves to ensure a smooth handling of whatever unfolds.

The basis for effective, self-confident moderating is training. LWV Minnesota is currently planning a series of moderator trainings that will be managed by LWVMN Voter Service Chair, Laura Helmer, along with Nick Harper, Civic Engagement Manager. Once we know the schedule, an invitation will be open to LWVSCA members who are interested. LWVMN trainings are open to League members statewide who are experienced moderators, as well those who have never moderated.

Because we could use more moderators, please consider whether you might be willing to serve in this important role. Feel free to talk about your interest with me and any Voter Service Team member.

~ Kate Meyer, Chair, on behalf of Team Members Mary Margaret Bjorklun, Sheila Ferguson, Ann Fleming, Julie Hiemenz, Linda Saupe, and Susan Smith

Membership News ~ Ralph Carr, Team Leader

Our Annual Membership Dinner at the Courtyard Marriott on Saturday, February 17, was certainly a memorable event and went off without a hitch. Many thanks must be given to the attentive staff at the Marriott, the excellent menu choices, the perfect setting for dinner and the movie, and especially to Ann Fleming for the extraordinarily elegant birthday cakes, three of them eagerly snapped up by all of us there.



I extend my personal thanks to the members of the Membership Committee for the logistical work that went into the planning and organization of the event: Jan Stavros, Mary-Margaret Bjorklun, Jerilyn Petersen, and Susan Smith.

As spring approaches please save the date for our **Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 14**, and consider bringing a friend, neighbor, relative, or colleague who might be interested in League activities. We have a crucial election coming up soon, and there are many significant issues on the table including election security, money in politics, voting rights, and voter education.

We are pleased to welcome Lee Morgan as a new member of the LWV St. Cloud Area. Lee lives with his wife in Annandale Minnesota. He is a retired CEO of Creative Memories, travels extensively around the world, is a soccer player and referee, and he runs a family foundation. Lee is especially interested in climate change, but he is also very involved in trying to aid Somali immigrants with microfinancing projects consistent with Islamic principles and federal guidelines. Because of his business background and connections he is very interested in collaboration with other issue based organizations. We are glad that he is willing to join our unit.

2018 Legislative Interviews

Recognition is in order for Program/Action Team members who planned a successful round of Legislative Interviews and to the League members who participated in them. Special kudos go to organizers Marlene Haider and Linda Kotschevar who invited Minnesota legislators from Districts 13 and 14; set up dates, times and places to meet; and arranged for members to conduct the interviews.

We are grateful for the participation of our legislators and those who interviewed them. In attendance for District 13 were Senator Michelle Fischbach and Representatives Jeff Howe (13A) and Tim O'Driscoll (13B). Those interviews were conducted by Ann Fleming and Kate Meyer. For District 14 interviews, Senator Jerry Relph was joined by Representatives Tama Theis (14A) and Jim Knoblach (14B). Ralph Carr and Jerilyn Petersen were the interviewers for that meeting.

Thanks, as well, to President Lolly Loomis and recorder Linda Kotschevar who attended both events. Linda will summarize the notes she took about the input received and forward them to Nick Harper, Civic Engagement Manager for LWV Minnesota. This information will be used by LWVMN Lobby Corps and Observer Corps volunteers as helpful background information for the legislative session beginning February 20.

Council APRIL 28, 2018

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT
ST. CLOUD, MN



LWVMN Council - April 27 & 28 in St. Cloud

LWVMN Council will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott, St. Cloud MN this year. It starts with a Friday evening social on April 27, followed by a full day of meetings and workshops on Saturday, April 28. The agenda and workshop information can be found now at [LWVMN](#). Registration opens March 12th. The cost of Council is \$100.

Having Council in St. Cloud is a great opportunity for our members to attend without the costs of travel. To encourage as many people as possible attend, we are offering \$50 scholarships for up to 10 people on a first come, first serve basis. To request the \$50 reimbursement, send an email to Diane Bublitz to reserve your scholarship. To actually collect the scholarship, you will need to provide proof that you registered and paid the \$100. Let Diane know if you are unable to register without the \$50 scholarship so arrangements can be made.

LWVMN is looking for volunteers to host one or more of our guests for Council in their homes. This would be for the nights of April 27 and/or April 28. If you are able to host another Leaguer, or have questions, contact Lolly Loomis via email by March 12th. Besides sharing your spare bedroom, there will be many other volunteer opportunities to help with Council so stay tuned.

2018-2020 Program Planning Recap

Special thanks to members who showed up on a cold Saturday morning for Winter Program Planning. A consensus was reached to support the continuation of the proposed program focus by the LWVUS Board, Making Democracy Work®, for the 2018-2020 biennium. This focus includes voting rights, improving elections campaign finance/money in politics and redistricting. Our members were asked to discuss the areas of this program that our League has worked on during the past two years. The input we submitted along with that of local Leagues across the county will help shape the proposed program that National Convention delegates adopt, after debate and discussion, this coming June.

Did you catch these Letters to the Editor?

In the past month two Letters to the Editor authored by spouses of our members were printed in the St. Cloud Times. If you did not catch them in the newspaper, use the links below to read them now.

Cliff Johnson, spouse of Betty Johnson, wrote a letter suggesting that members of the Minnesota legislature not vote as a block to prevent gridlock. It was published on Sunday, February 25th. Click [HERE](#) to read his letter.

Bill Haider, spouse of Marlene Haider wrote a letter on climate change that was published in the St. Cloud Times on Sunday, February 18th and can be read [HERE](#).

LWV Minnesota 2018 Legislative Agenda

The topics of legislative action this session are:

1. Bipartisanship and Election Law - emphasize Minnesota's long tradition of only passing changes to election laws that have broad bipartisan agreement, a tradition practiced by Governors Ventura, Pawlenty, and Dayton.

2. No Maybe Pile - oppose provisional ballots; LWV Minnesota anticipates collaboration with members of the Voting Rights Network on this issue.

3. Fair District Maps - support redistricting methods and principles that ensure fair maps that cannot be gerrymandered; LWV Minnesota anticipates collaboration with Common Cause Minnesota on this issue.

4. Money in Politics - support protection and improvement of existing campaign finance laws; LWV Minnesota anticipates collaboration with Common Cause Minnesota and Clean Elections Minnesota on this issue.

5. Restore the Vote - support re-enfranchisement of individuals with past felony convictions when they are not incarcerated; LWV Minnesota anticipates collaboration with the Restore the Vote Minnesota coalition and its members on this issue.

6. Automatic Voter Registration - support movement toward automatic voter registration; LWV Minnesota anticipates collaboration with the members of the Voting Rights Network on this issue.

7. Complete Count - support adequate state and local action and funding to ensure a complete and accurate count of Minnesota's population and demographics in the 2020 census; LWV Minnesota anticipates collaboration with the Minnesota Census Mobilization Partnership on this issue.

8. Government Transparency - support maintaining and improving government transparency through open meetings and data practices laws; LWV Minnesota anticipates collaboration with Common Cause Minnesota on this issue.

9. National Popular Vote / Electoral College - support movement toward the National Popular Vote model and oppose manipulation of the Electoral College.

Approved by the League of Women Voters Minnesota Board of Directors on December 23, 2017.

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A Facebook group for LWV members and friends

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

BOOK CLUB

LWVSCA Book Club is open to all members and friends who are welcome to attend at any time. We usually meet at 6:30 P. M. on the third Thursday of each month. For more information, please call Pat Fillmore at 320-259-0542. Our current book title and meeting place schedule is as follows:

	<p><i>The Firebrand and The First Lady, Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt and the Struggle for Social Justice</i> by Patricia Bell-Scott</p>	<p>**Monday, March 12, 2018, 6:30pm** Hostess: Ginny Clark 1340 9th AVE S, #114, St. Cloud MN 320-252-7151 **Day, Date & Location Change.</p>
	<p><i>How the Light Gets In</i> by Louise Penny</p>	<p>Thursday, April 19, 2018, 6:30pm Hostess: Linda Kotschevar 109 - 3rd Ave. N, Waite Park, MN 320-252-3827</p>

May 17: **1984** by George Orwell; June 21: **Neither Wolf nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder** (2nd ed. c.1996) by Kent Nerburn

Calendar

March

- 1 Dialogue & Drink, Martini Lounge, 5pm
- 5 LWVMN Day at the Capital, 10am-4pm
- 7 Voter Registration Workshop, 1 to 3pm
- 11 **Deadline for Annual Meeting Supplement**
- 12 Book Club, 6:30pm - **Date change**
- 14 Unit Meeting - GRRLibrary, 1-3pm
- 21 Board Meeting, GRRLibrary, Rm 268, 1-3pm
- 26 *League Lines*, Deadline, noon

March						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



April

- 5 Dialogue & Drink, Martini Lounge, 5pm
- 11 Unit Meeting - GRRLibrary, 1-3pm
- 14 Annual Meeting
- 18 Board Meeting, GRRLibrary, Rm 268, 1-3pm
- 19 Book Club, 6:30pm
- 23 *League Lines*, Deadline, noon
- 27-28 LWVMN Council, St. Cloud MN

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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29	30					

LWVMN, in collaboration with other organizations, may sponsor another Water Day at the State Capitol in late April. Look for updates on this possible opportunity to lobby our legislators.

List of upcoming unit topics with team members to date:

April 2018: Financing Public Education

Convener: Sheila Ferguson; Members: Mary Margaret Bjorklun, Judy Rogers

May 2018: Community Policing Follow-up

Convener: Jerilyn Peterson; Members: Sonja Berg and Ginny Clark

Like the topic? Don't see your name? Contact the Convener to get involved.

I just love bossy women. I could be around them all day. To me, bossy is not a pejorative term at all. It means somebody's passionate and engaged and ambitious and doesn't mind learning. –Amy Poehler

A publication of the League of Women Voters of the St. Cloud Area

LEAGUE LINES

PO BX 5084, St. Cloud MN 56302

Visit us at www.lwvsca.org or www.facebook.com/lwvstcloudarea Email us at: league@lwvsca.org Via Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/LWVofStCloud>

MISSION:

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. League of Women Voters affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of the membership...and strives to overcome barriers of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability in the activities of the organization.

President: Lolly Loomis

Membership: Ralph Carr

Secretary: Susan Smith

Editor: Marlene Haider

Treasurer: Diane Bublitz

Membership dues are \$70.00, of that \$38.00 is tax deductible.

Make your check payable to: LWVSCA.