



November Unit: Mining Copper-Nickel Sulfide in Northern Minnesota. Projects, Proposals, Politics, and Prospects



MPR News

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 1:00-3:00 pm

Bremer Room, St. Cloud Public Library
300 W St. Germain St. Cloud MN 56301



theuptake.org

For several years we have been hearing about a new kind of mining in northern Minnesota. One proposal now being fast tracked by Congress comes from the Polymet Corporation, a company financed by Glencore, a large heavy metal mining and commodities trading company headquartered in Switzerland, which has operations around the world, many in rogue states.

A second proposal from Twin Metals Corporation, owned 100% by Antofagasta, is a mining conglomerate from Chile. Both proposals have been working their way through the permitting process and environmental reviews.

A proposed “Land Swap” deal with the Superior National Forest is an important part of the picture along with the danger of sulfide mine tailings. Many of the economic, environmental, legal, and political issues associated with this deal will be explored.

Our speaker will be Paula Goodman Maccabee, Advocacy Director and Counsel for Water Legacy, one of several environmental groups actively following the legal, financial, environmental, and political issues related to sulfide mining. We encourage all members to attend. Bring friends, neighbors, mining proponents and those who are opposed to mining for an interesting, informed presentation.



Dialogue & a Drink

Red Carpet Martini Lounge, 11 - 5th Ave. S, St. Cloud MN
Thursday, November 2, 2017, 5:00pm

A Conversation with Dr. Henry Jakubowski and Neil Leisenheimer from Citizen's Climate Lobby about carbon fee & dividend.

Join the conversation to discover how charging a fee on carbon at the source of the fossil fuel (wellhead, mine, etc) would put more money in people's pockets! Yes, mostly likely more money in YOUR pocket. Henry and Neil will explain what carbon fee and dividend is and how it can be good for your pocketbook as well as the planet.

See Page 2 for December's Dialogue & a Drink of Cider!

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Holiday Potluck Brunch

Saturday, December 2, 2017

11:00am to 1:00pm

Unitarian Fellowship, 3226 Maine Prairie Rd, St. Cloud MN

Cost is \$5.00/person



Join us for a morning of music, good conversation and delicious food at our annual holiday party. While there you can do a little shopping at the silent auction too.

We ask that you bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Friends, spouses and partners are invited and encouraged to come. Contributions for the silent auction are needed and now that we qualify as a non-profit you could ask for a tax receipt for your contributions. In the past items included household and personal items, books, CDs, baked goods, etc. Your idle items could become a treasure for someone else and the money will help with our League's work.

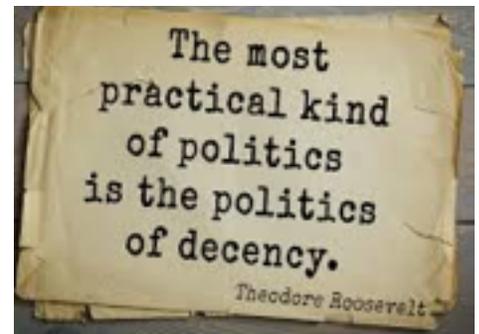
Dialogue & a Drink of Cider

“Civil Dialogue in Politics” Forum

Speaker ~ Denny Smith, Founder, Civility in Politics, Inc.

Thursday, December 7, 2017 6:30-8:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church
3226 Maine Prairie Rd., St. Cloud MN



The Program/Action Team of the LWVSCA has invited Denny Smith from Civility in Politics to speak at an informational forum on the topic of “Civil Dialogue in Politics”. The mission of this organization is to educate and promote civil conversation, meaningful dialogue, critical thinking, and active listening, as We the People engage in the American Political process. Denny says, "It's time to set aside our anger and partisan bickering and find common ground. In our current political climate, We the People need to demand more civility from our politicians, and we start by modeling that individually and collectively. It's up to us."

Note the Dialogue & A Drink of Cider location and starting time are different from our regular Drink & Dialogue. Come join us for an evening of “civil dialogue,” hot apple cider and dessert!

Legislative Interviews Coming in January

The League of Women voters believes that a democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens. With that in mind we have through the years held interviews with our policymakers prior to the legislation session. These interviews give LWV members an opportunity to get acquainted with our legislators, hear what their priorities are, and find out where they stand on issues important to League. The interviews also help us build a strong working relationship with our senators and representatives. LWVSCA plans to hold the legislative interviews in early January for legislative districts 13 and 14. Look for details in the January *League Lines* or talk with Linda Kotschevar.



Membership and Member News ~ Ralph Carr

Attention all League members. [Mark Saturday, February 17, 2018, on your calendar.](#) This will be our 98th birthday celebration. The national League of Women Voters and the St. Cloud Area League were both formed in 1920.

Our theme this year is Out of This World. We will be celebrating once again at the Tuscan Center in Midtown Mall beginning at 4:30 P.M. with dinner and a movie.

After social time we will view the movie *Hidden Figures*, celebrating the lives and accomplishments of three African American women mathematicians who worked for NASA from World War II through the 1960s and helped put human footprints on the moon.



After the movie we will have a catered dinner and a great Out of This World celebration for 98 years of resilience and hard work to advance voting rights, human respect for marginalized people, and the hard science of environmental protection and climate change. Look for more details later, and please plan to join us.

If you have not yet picked up your 2017-2018 membership directory for this year please attend our November Unit meeting. You may pick up your copy at that time.

League Statement on EPA Clean Power Plan Repeal

Washington, DC 10/10/2017 - League of Women Voters president Chris Carson issued the following statement in response to the Trump administration's repeal of the Clean Power Plan:

“By repealing the Clean Power Plan, the White House is putting the interests of corporate polluters ahead of the health and safety of the American public. This decision will have a devastating impact on the planet at a time when we are seeing the powerful climate change effects with rising temperatures, deadly hurricanes and destructive wildfires. The League is appalled at this irresponsible decision that will have a long-term devastating impact on our planet and health of the American people.”

LWV Statement on Executive Order to End Health Care Subsidies

Washington, D.C. 10/13/2017 - LWVUS president **Chris Carson** issued the following statement in response to the White House executive order to end health care subsidies in the Affordable Care Act:

"President Trump's executive order to end health care subsidies for insurance companies will raise premiums and leave more Americans without meaningful health insurance. These subsidies were put in place deliberately to keep costs down for everyday Americans. Removing them now is a dangerous step toward unraveling a fragile system. President Trump is attempting to dismantle the American health care system piece by piece, in the same dangerous and under-the-table manner that the American people made clear to their Congressional leaders is unacceptable. We have said many times that the Affordable Care Act is not a perfect law. Congress should work to improve it. The White House should not undo the positive impacts this legislation has had for millions of Americans who previously could not afford health care coverage."



Community Outreach News ~ Mary White-Levilain

The Community Outreach Team concluded its exploration of the executive orders and proposed policy changes on immigration in 2017 with 2 forums at Whitney Center.

Fifty people attended **Making Sense of Immigration in 2017: Stories from the Somali Community**. Kate Meyer moderated with assistance from Sheila Ferguson, Dee Lamb, Mary Kivi and Mary Kay Carle in addressing audience questions. The group learned about how and why so many Somali's have come to the area since 1991 and that many of them moved to the St. Cloud area after initially be resettled in other areas of the country. Ahmed Ali and Hudda Ibrahim addressed questions about the economic contributions the Somali population has brought to the community and the challenges of housing, access to health care and job opportunities for the St. Cloud area's college graduates. Finally, the importance of cross cultural conversations is being addressed as the Somali population invites the greater community to meet and get to know their new neighbors.

U.S. Immigration Policy: Effects on the Latino Community was attended by 38 community members who learned about the Latino population in the St. Cloud area from Ma Elena Gutierrez of Asamblea de Derechos Civiles. Mary White moderated with the assistance of Mary Kivi and Sheila Ferguson. The group learned when, why and how the Latino population came to the St. Cloud area; the contributions the population brings to the area as well as the challenges Here is what we learned:

- Latino families in the area are citizens, undocumented residents, and dreamers sometimes all 3 statuses might apply in a single family.
- The Latinos are hard-working, pay taxes and contribute to the community in many ways.
- They came here because there were job opportunities that paid well and were not seasonal. Coming to St. Cloud, also gave adults the opportunity to learn English and earn a GED.
- Even undocumented workers pay into Social Security and Medicare although they are not eligible for benefits.
- The Latino community is really struggling at this time with an increase in detentions, deportations and the rescinding of the DACA program.
- Asamblea was organized to help bring the Latino community out of the shadows, help them learn to stand up for their civil rights and welcome all community members to join them in actions both locally and nationally.
- A good relationship has been established between St. Cloud police and the Latino community. Asamblea is now working with Stearns County to develop that relationship and understanding.
- Regarding DACA, a Dream Act has passed the Senate but is short 18 votes in the House to bring the bill to the floor for debate. Asamblea, along with other community and state organizations are mobilizing to get this bill to the floor, ask for a Dream Act for all and see it passed into law before March 5, 2018.

At present, a delegation is set to fly to D.C. on November 7-8 to meet with key legislators. A Ride for Emancipation is planned for November 27 to December 2, 2017. The organization is paying the cost of these trips and invite's any community member to be a part of this journey to bring the DREAM Act for all into law before March 5, 2018. Contact Patty Keeling, Vice President of Asamblea at <mailto:pattykeeling@hotmail.com> to learn more or donate to this organization taking action for immigration reform and the civil rights of Latinos.

Moving forward, the Community Outreach Team will look at building relationships with local schools to offer voter registration at open houses where families who are new to the area might benefit. Nursing homes are another area where the team looks to assist residents in absentee voting and registration if needed.

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>Give Us the Ballot: the Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America</i> by Ari Berman</p>	<p>Thursday, November 16, 6:30pm Hostess: Deanna Lederer 5811 Michael Court, St. Cloud 320-253-5704</p>
	<p><i>The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared</i> by Jonas Jonasson</p>	<p>Thursday, December 21, 2017, 6:30pm Hostess: Pat Fillmore 16 Lindsay Court, St. Cloud 320-259-0542</p>

For a list of future selections contact Ginny Clark after October 29, 2017 or look in the January edition of *League Lines*.

Calendar

November 2017

- 2 Dialogue & Drink, Red Carpet, Martini Lounge, 5pm
- 6 Get to Know Your Muslim Neighbor, 6-8:30pm, First United Methodist*
- 8 Unit Meeting - Great River Regional Library, 1-3pm
- 15 Board Meeting, GRRLibrary, Rm 268, 1-3pm
- 16 Book Club, 6:30pm
- 23 Thanksgiving



December 2017

- 2 **Holiday Party, 11:00am, UU Fellowship**
- 7 Dialogue & Drink of Cider, UU Fellowship Hall, 6:30pm
- 21 Book Club, 6:30pm
- 25 **Christmas**
- 27 *League Lines* deadline, noon



*Information on this event was sent to members via email on October 25.

Save the Dates:

Legislative Interviews - TBA, Most likely Saturday morning January 6 or 13, 2018.

Program Planning - Saturday, January 27, 2018, 9:00am, Cornerstone Buffet, Sartell MN

Birthday Bash - Saturday, February 17, 2018, 4:30pm, Tuscan Center, St. Cloud MN

LWVSCA TEAMS 2017/2018

Communication Team

Team Leader: Mary Kivi

Members:

Marlene Haider – Newsletter

Linda Kotschevar – Website

Facebook

Program/Action Team

Team Leader: Linda Kotschevar

Members:

Marlene Haider

Ralph Carr

Gerri Gustafson

Bob Erickson

Community Outreach

Team Leader: Mary White- Levilain

Members:

Dee Lamb

Sheila Ferguson

Judy Rodgers

Programming Team

Team Leader: Ann Fleming

Members:

Lucy Lotara

Ginny Clark

Helen Lotara

Sonja Berg

Deanna Lederer

Membership Team

Team Leader: Ralph Carr

Members:

Susan Smith

Jerilyn Petersen

Mary Margaret Bjorklun

Bob Erickson

Voter Services Team

Team Leader: Kate Meyer

Members:

Sheila Ferguson

Julie Hiemenz

Susan Smith

Linda Saupe

Ann Fleming

Mary Margaret Bjorklun



There is still time to become a team member, either with a team on this page or the next!

LWVSCA members at the Governor's Water Initiative in September.

November 2017

List of upcoming unit topics with team members to date:

January 2018: Clean Water
Convener: Mary Kivi

February, 2018: Voter's Rights/Suppression
Convener: Sheila Ferguson; Members: Anne Buckvold, Mary Kay Carle, Ralph Carr, Ginny Clark, Linda Kotschevar, Helen Lotara, Lucy Lotara

March 2018: Advocacy and the State Legislature
Convener: Linda Kotschevar; Members: Ralph Carr, Bob Erickson, Geri Gustafson, Marlene Haider

April 2018: Financing Public Education
Convener: Sheila Ferguson; Members: Mary Margaret Bjorklun, Judy Rogers

May 2018: Community Policing Follow-up
Convener: Jerilyn Petersen; Members: Sonja Berg, Ginny Clark

If any of the topics interest you, please contact the convener to join the team. We believe you will find the experience enlightening and enjoyable.

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
Secretary: Susan Smith
Treasurer: Diane Bublitz

Membership: Ralph Carr
Editor: Marlene Haider

Membership dues are \$70.00, and the entirety is tax deductible.

Make your check payable to: LWVSCA.