



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

League Lines

May 2018



May Unit: Community Policing Agreement

Wednesday, May 9, 2018 1:00-3:00 pm

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

"The St Cloud Policing Agreement ("The Agreement") is the product of numerous discussions and good-faith collaboration between the St Cloud Police Department and members of the St Cloud Community. The present agreement builds upon the first version from 2005 to reflect the experience of the last 12 years and lay the foundation for positive community – police engagement in the future.

The Agreement serves several functions. First, it provides background history to the Agreement itself, in the hope that this will establish its authenticity and transparency. Second, it outlines the important procedures regarding Fair and Impartial Policing and the Complaint process. Third, it reminds everyone that it's success depends not only on the St Cloud Police Department, but also the Community at large."

Above are the first two paragraphs of the new St Cloud Community Policing Agreement which was signed on February 22, 2018. Assistant Chief of Police Jeffrey Oxton, SCPD, who took part in the original 2005 agreement discussions, as well as the current version, will give us a more detailed account of the origins and history of the Agreement. We will examine the current Agreement and show how decisions were reached. Several of our LWVSCA members, along with other Community members, who were a part of the yearlong discussions will participate.



The entire Agreement is being sent to you as a separate attachment from *League Lines*.

Jerilyn Petersen – Team Leader, Marge Rakow, Sonja Berg, and Ginny Clark – Team Members

Dialogue & a Drink - Thursday, May 3rd

Thursday, May 3, 2018, 5:00pm

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

"Let's Talk Politics"

Come with a national, state or local political issue you want to discuss and join the conversation! This will be the last Dialogue & a Drink for the season so let's make it a good one! D & D will resume again in the fall.

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

IN THIS EDITION

Summer Planning...	2
Membership ...	2
Voter Reg Report...	2
Candidate Forums...	3
Annual Mtg Recap.	4
Census ...	5
March for Our Lives ...	5
Book Club ...	6
Calendar	6
Membership Renewal form...	7

Summer Planning - July 25th



Please join us for the 2018 Summer Planning Meeting/Potluck on **Wednesday, July 25th from 5 to 7pm** at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3226 Maine Prairie Rd, St. Cloud MN. The evening starts with a potluck dinner so bring a dish to share.

This participatory meeting creates the list of unit meeting topics for the 2018-19 League year beginning with October 2018. This is your opportunity to have a voice in what the Units will be next year, so bring your ideas and your passions. If you have questions contact Ann Fleming.

Membership News ~ Ralph Carr, Team Leader



We hope that each of you has had a rewarding and engaging year in the League. As we finally emerge from a very long winter we hope that you will return next year with renewed dedication. Securing the right to vote for all eligible citizens remains a serious issue. With a new governor who will serve until 2022 we need to work toward a nonpartisan independent redistricting commission, work to remove questions about U.S. citizenship on the 2020 census, and make an effort to block active attempts to institute provisional ballots.

Please use the enclosed membership form on page 7 to renew your membership now if you haven't already done so. Remember that our new fiscal year began on April 1st, and that in order to assure our continued solvency for the upcoming midterm election year we need your payment now. You may also bring it to the May Unit Meeting on Wednesday, May 9th. Encourage your friends, neighbors and relatives who share your enthusiasm to join us as well. Anyone who has not renewed their membership by May 31, 2018, will be removed from the membership roster until they renew. Consider making an extra contribution as well.

We also want to welcome new member Moira Walsh who has just joined us!

If you have questions about membership please contact one of our team members, Jerilyn Peterson, Jan Stavros, Susan Smith, Mary-Margaret Bjorklun, Karen Langsjoen, or me Ralph Carr at rw carr@stcloudstate.edu or 320-202-7893.

LWVMN Statement on Legislative Auditor's Voter Registration Report



On March 16 the Office of the Legislative Auditor released their Voter Registration Report. The auditor's office examined the state's voter registration system and practices for several months, interviewing county election officials and county attorneys who prosecute allegations of voter fraud. The audit did not find widespread problems with illegal voting. The legislative auditor's office recommended that Minnesota needs to upgrade its aging computerized voter registration system and take steps to better help county election officials identify people who aren't eligible to vote. In response to the report, Michelle Witte, Executive Director of the LWV Minnesota released a statement. Read it here <https://lwvmn.org/media-and-events/statement-voter-registration-report>. For a summary of the report go to <https://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/ped/pedrep/voterregsum.pdf>.

The “Who” of Candidate Forums



The Voter Service Team will have a busy summer planning candidate forums for the fall 2018 election cycle. In general, this means deciding the number of races to cover and when and where to hold forums. Up to now, we have tracked persons who have declared they will run, but ultimately the “who” of forums depends on candidates actually filing for office. Filing for state offices occurs from May 22—June 5, and local offices have filing deadlines later in the summer.

The “who” of forums also depends on LWVSCA volunteers, since each forum requires an average of seven persons. As an example, if we organize eight forums, 50—60 volunteer slots need to be filled. Matching volunteer availability with specific forum dates can become a juggling act, and that means we need to have a full roster of members and friends who can participate and wear several hats.

Job Descriptions

The **forum facilitator** manages the venue from start to finish, making sure that candidates are greeted upon arrival and that the moderator has support for issues that may arise. An **assistant** takes care of practical details, from room set-up/take-down to counting attendance. A **greeter** welcomes attendees as they arrive, gives them copies of the forum procedures, and ensures that our requirements regarding no campaign materials are met.

Once the event begins, the **moderator** and **timer** direct the proceedings; while their actions are based on rules and procedures and a script, responding to the unexpected is part of their roles. Two **question screeners** support their efforts by receiving, sorting, and passing audience note cards to the moderator. At this point, the assistant and greeter may pitch in by running questions from audience members to the screeners. In a large room an extra runner may be required.

Training Opportunities

Ann Fleming and Julie Hiemenz attended the first LWV Minnesota moderator training on March 24. We hope to send two or more LWVSCA members to future trainings in May, June or July. These LWV MN summer offerings will include a half day devoted to moderator training and a half day on forum planning.

Sometime in August, the LWVSCA Voter Service Team will sponsor a local **Candidate Forum Training Workshop** that will include the how to's of moderating, along with an overview of all forum job descriptions. The workshop will include role playing responses to plausible scenarios. We will invite **all LWVSCA members and friends**. Stay tuned for more information from the Team, and thank you for registering for the workshop.

– **Kate Meyer, Chair**, on behalf of Voter Service Team members Mary Margaret Bjorklun, Sheila Ferguson, Ann Fleming, Julie Hiemenz, Linda Saupe, and Susan Smith



Common Cause MN Executive Director at Annual Meeting

On a snowy April evening, thanks to the wonders of technology, we were able to see and hear our Annual Meeting speaker via video conferencing! Annastacia Belladonna-Carrera, Executive Director of Common Cause MN, spoke to us about her organization and its role in educating and advocating for change in Minnesota's redistricting process. She reminded us that the MN Legislature is charged with the task of redrawing state legislative and congressional districts to meet equal population requirements using new census data. The last two redistricting cycles have gone to the MN Supreme Court after legislative impasse and a veto by the Governor. The Court then appointed a panel to draw the final congressional district plans. To address the legislative tendency to undermine electoral accountability redistricting reforms are needed in MN before 2021 when the process begins.

What can you do as a citizen that believes good government should be responsive to its constituency on this issue? Annastacia suggested the following:

- Educate yourself! Read the Common Cause MN Redistricting Primer found [HERE](#).
- Reach out to bill authors and ask how they went about deciding on the specific model, or language, being proposed in their bill.
- Familiarize yourself with the MN Legislature website at <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/> especially the "How Do I..." section. It provides you with instructions on how to get involved at the Capitol.
- Collaborate with organizations that are working on redistricting, census or voting rights and get on their emailing lists so you stay informed.
- Be an informed decision maker on redistricting. Ask the tough questions of both political camps regarding proposed changes to the redistricting process in local district lines and congressional districts.
- Ask your legislator to put forth their position on the matter and more importantly, to gather direct input from the community outside of the very limited time afforded at the Capitol.

Meet Your New Board Members



From Left: Ralph Carr, Ann Fleming, Kate Meyer, Diane Bublitz, Linda Kotschevar, Sheila Ferguson, Susan Smith, and Lolly Loomis

Missing: Mary Kivi

Take Action: Citizenship Question is Bad for the Census



U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has chosen to include a question on the U.S. Census pertaining to citizenship. Including this question on the Census will discourage participation and impact the data collected in every community across the country. **This decision is bad for the census, bad for our communities and bad for America.**

The Census occurs once every ten years, so it is imperative to get the most accurate count. Every community relies on Census data — from apportioning our national representatives to making decision about public safety and neighborhood resources — this information impacts every aspect of our lives. A fair and accurate count lets our leaders and businesses make sound investment decisions that keep our communities thriving.

Including a citizenship question on the Census undermines the rights of eligible voters and threatens a process vital to our democracy. We will do everything in our power to correct this issue before it's too late. **Stand with the League as we fight back against this decision. To do your part click on [TAKE ACTION](#).**

March for Our Lives Shout-out From LWVMN Executive Director



A special shout-out to our League members who attended March for Our Lives marches and rallies across the state and nation, who wrote letters to their newspapers, who registered voters in their communities and schools, and who perhaps exchanged difficult conversations with friends and colleagues. Together, we are living out our mission to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy!

Here are some of the great results of our State and Local League combined efforts on March 24:

- 166 paper voter registration forms were collected;
- 573 people texted "YOUTHVOTE" to our text service for regular voting reminders;
- 6 people requested voter registration drives at their school and more are coming in;
- 83 volunteers from 13 LWV local leagues provided an estimated 238 hours of service!

Michelle Witte, Executive Director LWVMN

National Convention

Thurs., June 28 – Sun., July 1, 2018 at Hilton Chicago

Our League sends our President to the biennial National Convention which this year is being held in Chicago. If you want to learn more about this convention go to:

<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/council-and-convention/convention-2018>

LWV 2018 Water Workshop and Banquet - June 27, Chicago

Information for this workshop sponsored by the UMRRILO can be found [HERE](#).

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>1984 by George Orwell</p> <p>(This book has had multiple covers through the years.)</p>	<p>Thursday, May 17, 2018, 6:30pm Hostess: Diane Bublitz 1514 Aspen Lane, St. Cloud 320-259-1939</p>
	<p>Neither Wolf nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder (2nd ed. c.1996) by Kent Nerburn</p>	<p>Thursday, June 21, 2018, 6:30pm Hostess: Pat Fillmore 16 Lindsay Court, St. Cloud 320-259-0542</p>
	<p>Glass Houses by Louise Penny</p>	<p>Thursday, July 19, 2018, 6:30pm Hostess: Barbara Bloomer 1313 N. River Ave, Sauk Rapids 320-253-5428</p>

Calendar

May

- 2 **Water Action Day** at the Capital
- 3 Dialogue & Drink, Martini Lounge, 5pm
- 9 Unit Meeting - GRRLibrary, 1-3pm
- 17 Book Club, 6:30pm
- 23 Board Meeting, 5pm, Potluck at Ann Fleming's home

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	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		

June

- 21 Book Club, 6:30pm
- 27 Water Workshop, Chicago IL
- 28 National Convention, 6/28-7/1

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	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

July

- 11 **League Lines Summer Edition, Deadline, 6pm**
- 19 Book Club, 6:30
- 25 **SUMMER PLANNING, 5-7pm**

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	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				



Membership Renewal – 2018-2019
League of Women Voters of the St. Cloud Area

If you haven't done so yet, please renew your membership for 2018-19 now. If you are unable to pay the entire membership dues, we have a scholarship fund to pay for up to 50% of your dues. Please talk to a board member about the scholarship option. You must renew by May 31st to be listed in the Membership Booklet.

Please complete the Membership Renewal form and mail with your check made out to LWVSCA to LWVSCA, PO Box 5084, St. Cloud, Minnesota 56302-5084. (You may also bring to the May meeting.)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Email _____

Membership Payment (Please check all that apply):

____ Individual Membership: \$70 (\$38 tax deductible)

____ Same Household Membership: \$70 primary member plus \$35 for each additional member(s)

____ Student/Low Income Membership: \$35

Additional Contributions: \$_____ (General Fund) \$_____ (Scholarship Fund) \$_____

Enclosed is a separate check payable to LWVEF: \$_____ (This is tax deductible and can replace part of the per member payments we make to National so it helps locally as well as nationally.)

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.