



All Member News - February 2017

Unprecedented 14% Growth in Membership since January 2016



Never have I seen the phrase “civic engagement” used more frequently than in the past 90 days. People of all ages, cultural backgrounds, religious orientation and political leanings are speaking out in historic ways. Local Leagues across Minnesota started seeing increased attendance at events beginning in early December. Relying on email and social media, LWV Dakota County sprang to life in January. Today, they have 47 members, a leadership team and are moving into action. The Washington Post recently featured an article on the “venerable League of Women Voters,” citing “unprecedented growth in membership.” No kidding... As of January 31, 2017, you — all of you together — boosted our LWV membership to a record increase of 14% over one year ago.

Whether this is your first All Member News or your 50th year of receiving the League’s All Member news, I welcome you to League and our nonpartisan work in civic engagement and voter education. In this polarized political climate, one thing our local Leaders are telling us is that people all across Minnesota are seeking out the League of Women Voters because we are NOT partisan but we do take positions on issues.

Being nonpartisan means that our organization does not and has never endorsed a candidate for office or a political party. We do study issues from all sides and perspectives, hold civil discussions where all voices are heard and respected, and arrive at a consensus that represents LWV’s position as published in Program for Action. Our positions are durable; they don’t change with the political winds. Yes, candidates may agree with LWV but that doesn’t mean LWV endorses or supports that candidate or party. Ours is an educated position based on the members’ views.

That Program planning work happens every two years as part of the work leading up to our biennial convention. Planning for our convention weekend is in full swing with members working on everything from agenda to nominations for the board to fun activities. In the weeks ahead, you will see many emails having to do with the formal business of our convention. Budget, Bylaws, Program, Awards and election of the Board all take place on April 28th, 2017 in Bloomington.

Instead of using this space to talk about the business elements, let me instead encourage you to plan now to be in Bloomington for the Legacy Luncheon and Membership and Leadership Development workshop on Friday, April 27th. Why Legacy Lunch? Two words — Lorna Landvik! Best-selling author, comedienne and actress Lorna Landvik is the author of *Patty Jane’s House of Curl* and *Angry Housewives Eating Bonbons*, among many others. She’s a book club favorite nationwide and she’s

guaranteed to make you laugh.

My personal favorite at convention is the parade of Leagues. Each local League will have mere moments at the microphone to tell their story and brag about their accomplishments. Hilarity often ensues with costumes, props and even song and dance. Get your team together and be ready for the spotlight to shine on your local League.

Without question, the most valuable and enjoyable parts of every convention for me are those moments in the hallway or even in the Ladies Room where we have those individual conversations. We share ideas, frustrations, successes and personal updates. It's that fellowship (sistership?) that makes LWV a statewide force to be reckoned with and respected for our voter education and nonpartisan advocacy.

Thunder, lightning and rain today — a rarity for February — remind us all that Spring and our last convention of our first 100 years happen in just two short months. Mark your calendar, encourage other members in your League to ride with you, and plan to learn and laugh with us in Bloomington.

Last month's column had a laundry list of ideas for welcoming and introducing new members to League. Have you implemented any of those ideas? If not, please do. If you're new to league and have an idea, question or comment, please be in touch either by phone at 218 341-0452 or by email at tkalil@arvig.net.

See you in Bloomington!

- Terry Kalil, President

Award Nominations deadline - March 17 You are encouraged to submit nominations for the Peggy Thompson and Hope Washburn awards to Florence Hedeem, Chair, LWV Minnesota Nominating Committee, at hedeemcf@arvig.net, by March 17th. The Peggy Thompson award recognizes outstanding leadership to a Local League; the Hope Washburn award recognizes outstanding leadership to the LWV Minnesota.

To request a nomination form, please contact the state office, 651-224-5445, or info@lwvmn.org.

Awards will be presented at the LWV Minnesota convention April 29, 2017, at Normandale Community College, Bloomington.

Water Action Day at the Capitol - April 19 Join us for a day of public action and advocacy to let lawmakers know we care about our water and how they can help protect it. *Come for some or all of the activities, whatever works for you!* We'll begin at Christ Lutheran Church, 105 University Ave. W., St. Paul, with briefings on the most important water issues facing Minnesotans today, followed by training sessions on how to effectively, actively engage with your legislators. Next, we'll meet with representatives at the nearby Capitol, where we'll also gather for **a rally in the rotunda at 1 p.m.** Details are still being set, but we'll also have mini-events throughout the day featuring other ways to engage with legislature. Now is the time to [sign up](#) for Water Action Day Minnesota! Please identify yourself as "League of Women Voters" when you do so, and click the "volunteer" button if you'd like to help put on this event.

[Minnesota Water Action Day](#)

Making the Right Call for Minnesota - Democracy and Redistricting - March 4

WHAT IS REDISTRICTING? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT? HOW DOES IT IMPACT YOU? TWO BILLS PROPOSE DIFFERENT MODELS FOR MINNESOTA'S 2021 REDISTRICTING PROCESS.

What: Panel discussion sponsored by: Common Cause, Minnesota Citizens for Clean Elections and Hamline University.

When: March 4, 2017, 1:30 - 3:30 PM

Where: Hamline University – West Hall Rm 101, 1536 Hewitt Ave. St. Paul. Free parking next to building.

Citizenship Tools: Be Informed, Be Involved, Vote! Feb 25

What: Overview of Federal, State and City Government, and the opportunity to meet and question elected officials.

When: Feb 25, 2017, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Where: Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, 270 Kent Street N. Saint Paul, MN 55102

The event is free, but please pre-register to help us with planning.

FORUM: Public Funding for Pre-K How Much? For Whom? Mar 11

Sponsored by the Bloomington, Richfield, and Edina local LWVs

What: Last year, the MN legislature allocated \$25 million for voluntary pre-K funding, but 60% of applications from our area did not receive funding. The forum panel members will address the issue of more funding reaching more children.

When: Saturday, March 11, 2017, 9:30 - 11 AM

Where: Richfield City Hall, 6700 Portland Ave S, Richfield, MN 55423 [See Map](#)

State Convention, April 28-30, 2017

Registration will open in early March. ([Read More](#))



LWV Minnesota Testifies at Legislative Salary Council

On Nov. 6, 2017, Minnesota voters approved a Constitutional Amendment that established a Legislative Salary Council to prescribe salaries of Minnesota legislators. The council asked former state legislators and LWV Minnesota to state our position on the role salary plays in recruiting candidates for the Minnesota Legislature and what role salary may have in members

staying or leaving office. You can read former LWVMN President Carol Frisch's presentation [here](#). The Council must issue its report by March 31 to set legislator salaries for the next two years.

Join LWV Minnesota's Action Alert Network

Receive Legislative Alerts so you can take action on key bills in committees or on the floor.

Click [here](#) to Subscribe to Action Alerts

Click [here](#) to subscribe to the Capitol Letter™

[Join](#) The Voter- Virtual Edition a Facebook group

**Members can join a Legislative Task Force. Please visit [Advocacy Registration](#)
*Don't forget to [DONATE](#) today to the League of Women Voters Minnesota to help
support our efforts pertaining to Equity and Inclusion. One donation goes a long way.
We cannot do it without you! Thank you for all of your continued kind support!**