



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® MEPH

Minnetonka Eden Prairie Hopkins

<http://www.lwvmn.org/LocalLeagues/MEPH/>

Nov.-Dec. 2010

The Voter

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters
Minnetonka / Eden Prairie / Hopkins

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

In This Issue

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWV W. Metro: 19th Amendment Successes & Failures • Dec. 16 LWV MEPH Holiday Party Invitation • CMAL 1/15 Meeting: Heading Home Hennepin • CMAL Oct. Meeting Report: Affordable Housing • LWVMN New Interim Exec Director Laura Frederick Wang • Status of Women & Girls in Minnesota Report • MEPH Membership is Growing • Open and Civil/Local Biz/Interfaith Dialogues | <p>Board Contacts</p> <p>Dorothy Boen, Hospitality, 952-935-2024
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LWV W. Metro Nov. 20: The 19th Amendment – Successes and Failures

“The 19th Amendment - Successes and Failures”

Saturday, November 20, 2010

St. Louis Park City Hall, Council Chambers, 5005 Minnetonka Boulevard

9:00 a.m. Coffee & Connecting

9:30 – 11:30 Presentation & Discussion

Join us to learn about and discuss the relevance of women’s equality.

SPEAKER: Debra Fitzpatrick directs the Center on Women and Public Policy at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota. She leads a partnership with the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota examining the status of women and girls in Minnesota and leads research and outreach efforts in the areas of women and electoral politics, gender and judging, and women-centered non-profits.

She will use data from the Status of Women and Girls in Minnesota project to examine how gaining the vote has and hasn't changed the status of women in Minnesota.

A Question & Answer period will follow the presentation. The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

Questions? Contact Barb Person (952.546.3490 or 2persons@comcast.net).

Sponsored by the West Metro Alliance

(League of Women Voters from Brooklyn Park/Osseo/Maple Grove, Crystal/New Hope/E. Plymouth, Golden Valley, Minnetonka/Eden Prairie/Hopkins, St. Louis Park, South Tonka and Wayzata/Plymouth)

Join us at the LWV MEPH Holiday Party Dec. 16

The LWV Minnetonka/Eden Prairie/Hopkins Annual Holiday Party will be held the evening of Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010. The festivities begin at 5:30pm. Montgomery will be hosting this at her condo's party room, at 14601 Atrium Way, Minnetonka, MN 55345. This is a potluck party. Please RSVP to Bev at 952-931-0805 or bevmontgomery@comcast.net. All members and friends and potential members of LWV MEPH are welcome!

CMAL Quarterly Meeting: Jan. 15, 2011 by Geneva MacMillan, CMAL Board

"Heading Home Hennepin" by Cathy ten Broeke on Saturday January 15, 2011
Augsburg Park Library, 7100 Nicolet Avenue, Richfield, MN 55423

Cathy ten Broeke is Project Coordinator for the Office to end Homelessness in Minneapolis and Hennepin County.

The Heading Home Hennepin Plan was developed by business and civic leaders, advocates, community members and individuals who have experienced homelessness with the goal of ending homelessness in Minneapolis and Hennepin County by 2016. This program is expected to change the paradigm from managing to ending homelessness.

The Plan is in the 4th year of the Heading Home Hennepin Initiative and has helped many people with significant cost savings. They have seen more people come into the program which has been a challenge. They will be publishing an interim public report in November 2010 which will show their progress on the 10 Year plan to End Homelessness.

Come and hear of a government program that is showing success four years into the ten year span.

LWV CMAL Meeting Report: Affordable Housing, 10/16 by Margaret Nelson

Speaker: Guy Peterson, the Met Council Director of Community Development.

Mr. Peterson talked of how the Met Council determined Affordable Housing Needs for 2011 – 2020. The Met Council's role in Affordable Housing includes Comprehensive Planning, Livable Communities Act and the Metro HRA.

Through the Metro Land Use Planning Act of 1978 the housing element is not considered a regional system so the Met Council cannot mandate what communities do, but communities must include the possibility of affordable housing in their local comprehensive programs. The Council gives guidance as to what the local communities' share of affordable should be, based on 4 factors: Share of household growth in the local community; number of local low-wage jobs/low wage workers; existing affordable housing; and level of transit service.

For the 2011 – 2020 time frame it is estimated that 51,000 units of affordable housing are needed. However because of economic difficulties the Met Council is only expecting local communities to build just 65% of their proposed share!!

Communities must acknowledge policies and objectives; they must guide sufficient land for affordable housing and they must identify their implementation. Of 189 communities, 126 communities have affordable housing responsibilities because they have a central sewer system. Those communities with septic systems are not included.

As to results: most local planners are acknowledging their share of affordable housing needs. They are guiding sufficient land and are implementing. Mid to high density is an essential element. Speaking of the SW transit corridor, Eden Prairie is the only community considering density around the light rail transit stations.

The Metro Livable Communities Act of 1995 concentrates on incentive based voluntary affordable housing needs.

The Metro HRA begun in 1974-75 concentrates on small suburban communities which do not have their own HRA. To help persons find housing with Section 8 a Housing Link has been established.

LWVMN Announces Laura Frederick Wang as Interim Executive Director

With the departure of Executive Director, Keesha Gaskins, in January 2011, LWV Minnesota proudly announces that Laura Fredrick Wang will assume leadership responsibilities in January as Interim Executive Director. Laura Fredrick Wang began working for LWV Minnesota in 2006 as the Voter Guide Project Director and moved into the role of Public Policy Coordinator in 2007. Laura is a graduate of Metropolitan State University with a degree in public policy and non-profit management. She is currently a Masters in Public Affairs candidate at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute with a concentration in non-profit leadership and civic engagement.

Keesha Gaskins is moving to Brennan Center for Justice as Senior Counsel in January 2011.

Status of Women & Girls in Minnesota Report Released, by Peggy Kvam

The Center on Women & Public Policy at the U of M Humphrey Institute and the Women's Foundation of Minnesota have released a full report on the *Status of Women and Girls in Minnesota*. Women in Minnesota are doing better economically than the nation overall, but still have not caught up to men. The Health and Reproductive Rights section presents some disturbing trends, particularly for women of color. Teen birth rates for Minnesota girls of color are higher than the average across the country, and women, especially women of color, lack healthcare access. The report also includes sections on Safety & Security and Power & Leadership. The report presents a wealth of data, describes programs that address the issues and gives suggestions for how you can help. Here are some ideas for all of us, presented in the report. Also, please attend the Nov. 20 LWV W. Metro Meeting on Women's Equality.

What You Can Do in 30 Minutes or Less to Balance the Economic Scales for all Women and Girls

- Join a WAGE Club (www.wageproject.org) to fight for fair wages for women.
- Learn more about how to negotiate for the wage you deserve: www.wageproject.org. Then, coach the girls and women in your life to do the same.
- Encourage your employer to conduct a gender equity audit. Information on conducting a self audit is available at <http://bit.ly/c8p6Ca> and the MN Dept. of Employee Relations Pay Equity Unit offers technical assistance at <http://bit.ly/dgXMUW>, Faiht.Zwemke@state.mn.us, 651-259-3761.
- Buy from women-owned and women-run businesses (lists available at: www.wbenc.org)
- Join the Pay Equity Coalition of Minnesota; contact ptanji@aol.com.
- Participate in Equal Pay Day (April, annually) and wear red as a symbol of how far women and communities of color are in the red: <http://bit.ly/hBbWi>
- Educate and encourage the girls in your life to pursue careers in science: www.womeninscience.org.
- Use your philanthropic power to invest in a state organization that supports a women's economic justice issue you care about.

What You Can Do in 30 Minutes or Less to Create a World that is Safe for Women and Girls

- Pay attention to the way others in your life talk about women and girls, and challenge racist, sexist and/or homophobic comments.
- Watch TV and movies with the children and youth in your life, and use instances of sexualization and objectification to raise awareness.
- Boycott Craig's List, the number one place that lists ads for escort services that prostitute girls and women.
- Boycott restaurants (ex., Hooters) and clothiers (ex., Abercrombie) that objectify girls and women.
- Don't buy magazines that objectify women through ads or content.
- Visit www.girlpower.gov to educate yourself and the young women in your life about the tyranny of the unattainable body image.
- Educate the men in your life about how they can help change boys' attitudes (and their own) about sexual and domestic violence: <http://bit.ly/awbyX3>.
- Educate yourself and others about child sex trafficking in Minnesota. Reach out to vulnerable girls and women in your life you think may be at risk.
- Consider "clean hotels" that don't offer pay-per-view pornography: <http://bit.ly/bXbzQO>.
- Call your child or grandchild's school and insist that sexual and domestic abuse is addressed in health education material.
- Support organizations working to end domestic and sexual violence in the state.

What You Can Do in 30 Minutes or Less to Improve the Health & Well-Being of Women and Girls

- Bring healthy food to your next family, work or community gathering.
- Check-in with the women in your life to see if they are up to date on cancer screenings.
- Take the stairs, park the car at the far end of the lot, walk to the store, bike, do yoga - - whatever, just move your body! Encourage your kids, friends, family, colleagues to do the same.
- Mentor a girl or young woman in your life; caring relationships with adults help create resiliency.
- Create an ongoing, open dialogue with girls and boys in your life about reproductive health.

- Send a healthy e-card to a friend: <http://bit.ly/9J2tr1> Add your ideas and check for others' feedback on actions at www.wfmn.org.
- Invest in organizations that support or provide access to quality, affordable, comprehensive health and reproductive care for all women and girls.

What You Can Do in 30 Minutes or Less to Help Diversify Power and Leadership in Minnesota

- Step into your own leadership, and encourage other women to do the same. Run for elected office, go for a work promotion, negotiate your salary, join a corporate or nonprofit board. Just do it!
- Suggest a woman colleague for a promotion where you work.
- Visit www.womenwinning.org to learn about women running for office. If you like them, support them by donating to their campaign.
- Sponsor a woman to participate in The White House Project's and/or Tri-College NEW Leadership Institute's training. (See page 2 for links)
- Launch a women's leadership network at your company and build your own network.
- Support organizations that work to build political power and leadership for all women and girls in Minnesota.

The **Status of Women & Girls in Minnesota** Full Report is available by download at the Women's Foundation of Minnesota website, www.wfmn.org.

MEPH Membership is Growing... by Bev Montgomery

MEPH is off to a strong start with many members who have renewed for the 2010-2011 year and some new members we have welcomed and some past members we have welcomed back.

Paid members to date are: Janice Allen, Karen Anderson, Joyce Anderson, Dorothy Boen, Florence Bogle, Lynn Day, Mary Endorf, Mimi Gleekel, Sheila Goldstein, Amber Greves, Lorena Hooyman, Janet Kramer, Peggy Kvam, Rose Linden, Lucille Long, Mary McVay, Geneva MacMillan, Geneva Middleton, Beverly Montgomery, Kathy Nelson, Margaret Nelson, Arlene Nystuen, Ruth Orandi, Cathy Parry, Jeanne Peppel, Char Peterson, Judy Schuck, Sue Scribner, Judy Sherman, Mary Tambornino, LuAnn Tolliver, Shirley Wilson. Generous donations have been received from Inga DiTosto and Michelle Solomon.

This is proving to be a productive and an exciting year, with programs on energy, environment, immigration, education and a planned viewing of "Iron Jawed Angels" in celebration of the 90th anniversary of League of Women Voters, as well as the candidate forums which we conducted in Eden Prairie for mayor and council and in Minnetonka for district 42. LWV continues to be a vibrant and respected source of non-partisan information in communities and we need your energy as we continue to be a stable force for active citizenship. Doesn't it make you proud when LWV is referenced with respect in news articles and even when we are derided by those who would limit the rights of citizens?

If you haven't joined this year, please fill out the following and send your check for membership to assure continued information and membership privileges. We need your continued presence in the Minnetonka, Eden Prairie and Hopkins LWV.

Clip and mail to: Beverly Montgomery 14601 Atrium Way #333, Minnetonka, MN 55345

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

To save trees and the MEPH treasury, I am willing to read the VOTER on-line. Yes _____

I'd love to save the trees but can't read the VOTER on-line and want it mailed to me. _____

National Geographic Issues of Note – by Mary Tambornino

Heads up about the October 2010 issue of National Geographic, on "the Spill", referring of course to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Also of interest is the April issue on "Water".

Open and Civil – by LWV National President Elisabeth MacNamara

I couldn't be prouder of the League this election season. During my [travels to nine states](#) before the elections, I saw firsthand the incredible work done by local Leagues and their volunteers — registering tens of thousands of new voters, providing nonpartisan information on the candidates through millions of printed and online voters' guides, and holding hundreds of candidate debates seen and heard by thousands over the course of the campaign.

Our examination of this year's election has brought to light two major players during this election season that demand our immediate attention: [secret money and incivility](#).

When the Supreme Court ruled on the *Citizens United* case earlier this year, huge amounts of secret money were turned loose in American politics. Congress' failure to act and pass the DISCLOSE Act only added to this problem.

As a result, not surprisingly, voters were overwhelmed by millions of dollars in negative ads this year but didn't know who paid for many of them. [Leagues across the country have been calling on their elected officials to support the DISCLOSE Act](#), which would require corporations and unions to disclose the dollars they spend in elections.

With the 2012 presidential election season having already begun on November 3, the League will continue to address the other major issue this election season — incivility. The tone of the 2010 campaign exhibited a disturbingly new low in American politics. Not only was this evident in the expensive advertising, but we also saw it in candidate debates and forums and in the public discourse.

As we have for the past 90 years, the League will continue to help our fellow citizens discuss the issues in a civil and fact-based way and fight for transparency, accountability, and disclosure in America's elections!

Voters, not money, should be at the center of our democracy.

Elisabeth MacNamara, President, LWVUS

Links to Local Businesses by Bev Montgomery

Thought this might be of interest...

Links to Corporate Contribution Information, local businesses, American-made products

Common Cause Minnesota is tracking corporations donating money to political front groups at:

<http://www.commoncause.org/site/pp.asp?c=dkLNK1MQIwG&b=6096719>

Hennepin County provides this valuable consumer referral service:

<http://www16.co.hennepin.mn.us/ceweb/Search.do>

Directory of locally owned business: <http://www.buylocalmn.com/about>

Directory of locally grown food: <http://www3.mda.state.mn.us/mngrown/?gclid=CJi7uuy8j6UCFc1H5wod2yDeNw>

Directory of locally owned restaurants: <http://eatlocalminnesota.com/>

Mobile phone service that supports progressive causes and does not turn over your records to the NSA!

<http://www.credomobile.com/lpgenerated/choice-of-phones-l.aspx?gclid=CI6R26u5j6UCFYIKKgodOgmxNA>

Union/American made clothing: <http://www.unionlabel.com/> and <http://www.allamericanclothing.com/>

Directories of American made/provided products and services: <http://www.buyamerican.com/> and <http://www.americansworking.com/>

Interfaith Dialogues

Arlene Nystuen recommends a series of Interfaith Dialogues on topics relevant to religious dialogue and issues of today's world. See Looking Ahead for schedules or contact Arlene for more information.

Looking Ahead

Mo, 11/15, 7pm	Interfaith Dialogue: Sacred Space, Islamic Institute of MN, Maplewood
Th, 11/18, 7pm	Interfaith Dialogue: Why Bad Things Happen to Good People, Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis
Sa, 11/20, 9am	LWV W. Metro, 19 th Amendment, St. Louis Park City Hall, 5005 Mtka Blvd, St. Louis Park
Mo, 11/22, 7pm	Interfaith Dialogue: Sacred Time, Klas Center at Hamline University, St. Paul
Th, 12/16, 5:30pm	LWV MEHP Holiday Party, Party Room at 14601 Atrium Way, Minnetonka
Sa, 1/8, 9:30AM	LWV MEPH: MN Water Policy , Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Mtka Blvd, Mtka 55345
Sa, 1/15, 9:30AM	LWV CMAL: Homelessness , Augsburg Park Library, 7100 Nicollet Ave., Richfield, MN 55423
Sa, 3/19, 9:30AM	LWV CMAL Quarterly Meeting



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Want Clout? VOTE!