



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® MEPH

Minnetonka Eden Prairie Hopkins

<http://www.lwvmeph.org>

Sept/Oct 2011

## 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.

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#### Board Contacts

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### LWV MEPH Sept. 17: A Discussion With Maria Ruud on How to Make a Difference

**FORMER MN REPRESENTATIVE MARIA RUUD**  
**A DISCUSSION OF HOW CITIZENS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**  
 9:30-11:00AM  
 Saturday, September 17, 2011  
 Council Chambers, Minnetonka City Hall  
 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345

Maria Ruud formerly represented Eden Prairie and Minnetonka in the Minnesota House of Representatives. She will lead a discussion on how citizens can most effectively communicate with public officials to raise awareness of their issues and priorities.

### LWV MEPH Oct. 22: Lauren Gilchrist, Opportunities for Innovation and Leadership

**LAUREN GILCHRIST, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
**OPPORTUNITIES FOR INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP**  
 9:30-11:00AM  
 Saturday, October 22, 2011  
 Council Chambers, Minnetonka City Hall  
 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345

Lauren Gilchrist serves as the Assistant Commissioner for Health Policy and Reform for the State of Minnesota. Her role is to coordinate statewide implementation of state and federal health reform.

## Fall Candidate Forums – Volunteers Needed

MEPH will be hosting five candidate forums in October. Hopkins and Minnetonka will be filling city council and mayoral seats, and Eden Prairie, Hopkins, and Minnetonka all have vacancies on their respective school boards. Please check your calendars to see if you are available to help. We need MEPH members to welcome the public, hand out question cards, sort questions, and be time keepers. Contact me at 952-212-0898 or at [minncat@gmail.com](mailto:minncat@gmail.com).

Oct 5 WED Minnetonka City Council, Minnetonka Council Chambers, 7 pm  
Oct 6 THURS Hopkins City Council and Mayor, Hopkins Council Chambers, 7 pm  
Oct 13 THURS Eden Prairie School Board, Eden Prairie Council Chambers, 7 pm  
Oct 18 TUE Minnetonka School Board, Minnetonka Council Chambers, 7 pm (hosted jointly with LWV South Tonka)  
Oct 19 WED Hopkins School Board, Hopkins Council Chambers, 7 pm

*No unauthorized recording is allowed at LWV MEPH Candidate forums, per LWVMN policy. These events will be broadcast on community access cable TV, and accessible online at the respective city websites. The LWV MEPH Candidate Forums are open to the public and all recording rights are property of LWVMEPH.*

Cathy Parry, Voter Service Chair, 952-933-0898 or [minncat@gmail.com](mailto:minncat@gmail.com)

## LWV MEPH 2011-2012 Program Schedule and Board Meetings

Please mark your calendars with the dates for LWV Minnetonka/Eden Prairie/Hopkins programs and events.

Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011: A Discussion with Maria Ruud on How Citizens Can Make A Difference

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011: Lauren Gilchrist on “Opportunities for Innovation and Leadership in Health Care”

Saturday, Nov. 5, 2011: Joint Meeting with West Metro on the US Role in Education. Location TBD. *Watch our website [www.lwvmeph.org](http://www.lwvmeph.org) for the location. The next Voter will come out after Nov. 8 Election Day.*

Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011: Evening Potluck Holiday Party. Location TBD.

Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012: Presentation by Lori Sturdevant from the Minneapolis Star Tribune

Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012: Kim Labo, “Toxic Substances in Our World”

March Joint Meeting with West Metro, Date and Location TBD.

April: League of Cities program. Date and Location TBD.

May Annual Meeting: Date and Location TBD.

The tentative plan for LWVMEPH board meetings is to hold them immediately after the monthly program meeting. Interested members are welcome to join the first meeting Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at approximately 11:30AM.

## LWVMEPH Membership Update

### Memberships Paid

Congratulations to those who have paid their memberships to MEPH for the June 2011 through May 2012 year. We welcome dues anytime, but it is a help to have the roster up-to-date early. Many activities are on the calendar for this fall and we do need your dues as well as your support for our events. It also means you will receive the VOTER without a skip and other news critical to active citizenship. Thanks to early birds: Karen Anderson, Dorothy Boen, Florence Bogle, Sheila Goldstein, Lorena Hooyman, Janet Kramer, Peggy Kvam, Lucille Long, Geneva MacMillan, Geneva Middleton, Beverly Montgomery, Margaret Nelson, Arlene Nystuen, Ruth Orandi, Cathy Parry, Jeanne Peppel, Judy Schuck, Susan Scribner, Mary Tambornino, LuAnn Tolliver, Peg Woellner and new member Denise Beusen.

**Dues (\$65) can be sent** to Bev Montgomery, 14601 Atrium Way #333, Minnetonka, MN 55345. If you have questions, email Bev at [bevmontgomery@comcast.net](mailto:bevmontgomery@comcast.net) or call 952-931-0805.

## LWV CMAL October 15 Program: The New Metropolitan Council

“The New Metropolitan Council”

Presented by Jennifer Munt, Metropolitan Council Member, District 3

Saturday October 15, 2011

Minnetonka City Hall, Council Chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Mtna, MN 55345

9:30 a.m. Coffee & Connecting

10:00 - 10:30 a.m. Mini-Orientation to CMAL

10:30 - 11:50 a.m. Presentation and Discussion

11:50 a.m. Announcements

The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization for the seven-county Twin Cities area. The Council runs the regional bus and rail system, collects and treats wastewater, coordinates water resource preservation, plans and helps fund regional parks, and administers funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The 17-member Metropolitan Council is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Minnesota governor.

Since Minnesota has a new governor, we have 16 new council members and one incumbent selected by this governor. Essentially we could call this group “The New Metropolitan Council”.

Some of the questions which residents could ask our Metropolitan Council might be:

- Goals for the next few years
- How spending cuts will affect how the Met Council governs
- How the Met Council interfaces with other government units (state, county, city, etc.)

Jennifer Munt was appointed to the Metropolitan Council in March 2011 by Gov. Mark Dayton. She represents District 3 which is part of western Hennepin County including cities of Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Hopkins, Orono, Shorewood, and Wayzata and others.

Munt is Public Affairs Director for AFSCME Council 5 where she leads marketing, communications and media relations. Previously she was communications Director for the Hiawatha LRT project (2000-2005) and an Outreach Coordinator for the Metropolitan Council (1999-2002). Since 2005 she has served as president of Transit for Livable Communities, the state’s largest transportation advocacy organization. She is on the Community Development and Transportation committees on the Met Council.

She is passionate about community members voicing their ideas in decisions that affect the region and their daily lives.

## LWV South Tonka: LWVMN’s Voter Photo ID Position

LWV South Tonka will sponsor a Photo ID presentation which will include our league and close by leagues. Sheri Knuth, LWVMN Public Policy Coordinator, will have the LWVMN position, video and a toolkit.

Date: October 26 from 7:00 to 8:30

Location: Lakeview Lofts party room

4100 Spring St. floor 5, Spring Park, MN

To gain access to the building: key in 16# -- my phone will ring and I will unlock the door.

Elevator is at the end of the hall and to the left (just before door to exercise room). Go to floor 5

Directions: At the intersection of co. rd. 15 and 19, go west on 15 (now Shoreline Dr.)

At first stop light - Sunset, turn right and take an immediate left.

This is west of Wayzata and North of Mound.

Donna Thayer, LWV South Tonka, 612-325-6501

**To carpool with Sue Scribner, please contact her at 952-949-9582 or [suscribner@yahoo.com](mailto:suscribner@yahoo.com).**

## LWVMN Briefing Paper Volunteers Needed

**LWVMN Program 2011 through 2013 – The Briefing Paper is back**

***Calling ALL Interested Members!! YOUR help and input are needed!!***

The May 2011 LWVMN convention showed members are again eager to work hard for Minnesota. Members voted once again to implement briefing papers in lieu of a 2-year study for the 2011-2013 program cycle. The goal of the briefing paper format is to educate members on a potentially controversial, complicated or confusing issue on which LWV already has a position. Three topics of concentration were selected by the convention members, meaning we have our work cut out for us.

LWVMN is looking for interested, motivated, and committed members to volunteer and work together with other task force members to research, investigate, document and summarize objectively one or more of the below selected areas of study:

### **IMPACT OF CITIZENS UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION DECISION ON MINNESOTA**

**BACKGROUND:** The U. S. Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision, ruled in 2010 that (under the First Amendment) corporations and unions have the same political speech rights as individuals, in turn allowing corporations and unions to use their general treasury funds to make election-related independent expenditures. This ruling became controversial because it struck down a federal law banning this practice and also overruled two of the courts prior decisions in the matter. The new ruling calls into question laws in 24 states, including Minnesota, where corporations are prohibited from making independent expenditures from their general treasury. What will be the effect of this new court decision on the election laws currently in place in Minnesota? What can citizens and LWVMN do about these potential outcomes?

**LWV Position:** Justification for a briefing paper on this specific topic comes from LWV positions on both campaign finance, and citizen rights. LWV supports methods of financing political campaigns that ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process. LWVMN supports judicious use of public resources to finance campaigns, and reduction of the amount of money spent on campaigns. Additionally LWV supports actions to protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate participation in government decision making.

### **STATUS OF PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FUNDING IN MINNESOTA**

**BACKGROUND:** The Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board was established in 1974 to administer Minnesota's Ethics in Government Act. The Board's mission is to promote public confidence in state government decision-making through development, administration, and enforcement of disclosure and public financing programs, and ensure public access to and understanding of information filed with the Board. What is the current status of the Board? Have new laws and legislation being proposed to weaken the influence of the Board? What actions can LWVMN and citizens of Minnesota take to assure the value of the Board remains intact?

**LWVMN Position:** Justification for a briefing paper on this specific topic comes the from LWVMN position on campaign finance. LWVMN supports the public's right to comprehensive disclosure of all political campaign contributions and expenditures: mandatory, timely, uniform and complete reports of campaign contributions and expenditures should be made to a central authority responsible for disseminating such information to the public; responsibility for reporting contributions to the candidate's campaign and for reporting expenditures by the candidate and those made on the candidate's behalf rests squarely on the candidate; penalties should be stringent enough to ensure compliance by candidates.

## MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN IN MINNESOTA

BACKGROUND: In the state of Minnesota alone there are hundreds if not thousands of children exploited each year, some of whom end up missing. The problem is not a new one, but some communities are now making concerted efforts to address the issue and combat the problem. Holding back progress and success of these efforts, is a clear understanding of the problem, a shared definition of terms, a grasp on how the sexual victimization of children occurs, and knowledge of the facts behind the numbers and statistics. How is this problem defined in Minnesota? Who are the real perpetrators of these offenses and who are their victims? What needs to be explored and explained so that solutions to the problem might be found?

**LWVMN Position:** Justification for a briefing paper on this specific topic comes from LWV positions on social policy, families and children, and violence prevention. LWV supports social policy that will secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all; promoting social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans. Specifically, LWV has designated positions on early intervention for children at risk and supports policies and programs at all levels of the community and government that promote the well being of, and encourage the full development and ensured safety of all children. LWV also supports violence prevention programs in all communities and action to support such programs. LWVMN supports a multi-disciplinary approach in dealing with child abuse, and adequate staffing and resources for child protection services.

The briefing papers are to be short (3 - 5 pages single spaced), timely, relevant, researched, documented, and objective. Members of the committees will work together via e-mail, conference call, Adobe Connect, and if possible face to face to divvy up tasks, compile information, and provide peer review.

Do any of these above topics interest YOU? Do you want to learn more? Then by all means, PLEASE join us and sign up today to research the topic(s) of your interest! It is our goal to have committee assignments completed by June 21<sup>st</sup> – the summer is a good time to do some in-depth reading!

For more information, or to volunteer your time please contact Zandy Zwiebel (contact information below). I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Zandy Zwiebel - LWVMN Program Chair 2011-2013

[Zwie0029@d.umn.edu](mailto:Zwie0029@d.umn.edu)

(218) 728-9411 Cell

(218) 341-6099 Home

## LWVMN Development Training Offered

We would like to make a wonderful opportunity available to all local league presidents or a representative from your league.

Susan Jasinski, a wonderful new addition to the Development Committee, has secured the generously donated services of Bonnie McClain to conduct a training session on how to request large donations. Bonnie is a major gifts director at Greater Twin Cities United Way and very skilled at engaging major donors. I believe this training will make it easier to approach entry and mid-level donors as well and hope you can join us.

The session is on September 19 at 11:30. Our site will be determined by the number of people who RSVP, so please call or e-mail me by September 9<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend or are even a “maybe.” If the turnout is small enough, we will meet in the large conference room at the Women’s Building.

Carol Frisch and Beth Johnson

[ejohnson@lwvmn.org](mailto:ejohnson@lwvmn.org)

Phone: 651-224-5445 ext 225

## Looking Ahead

Sa, 9/16, 9:30AM	LWV MEPH: Discussion with Maria Ruud, Mtka City Hall, 14600 Mtka Blvd, Mtka, MN 55345
Mo, 9/19 11:30AM	LWVMN Development Training. Location TBD.
We, 10/5 7:00PM	Minnetonka City Council Candidate Forum, Mtka City Hall, 14600 Mtka Blvd, Mtka 55345
Th 10/6 7:00PM	Hopkins City Council Candidate Forum, Hopkins City Hall, 1010 1 <sup>st</sup> St. S., Hopkins, MN 55343
Th 10/13 7:00PM	Eden Prairie School Board Candidate Forum, EP City Hall, 8080 Mitchell Rd, Eden Prairie
Sa 10/15 9:30AM	CMAL Program: New Metropolitan Council, Mtka City Hall, 14600 Mtka Blvd, Mtka 55345
Tu 10/18 7:00PM	Mtka School Board Candidate Forum, Mtka City Hall, 14600 Mtka Blvd, Mtka 55345
We 10/19 7:00PM	Hopkins School Board Candidate Forum, Hopkins City Hall, 1010 1 <sup>st</sup> St. S., Hopkins, MN 55343
We,10/19 9:15AM	Citizenship Ceremony Voter Registration, William Mitchell Law School, St. Paul
We, 10/26 7:00PM	LWVMN Voter Photo ID Position, Lakeview Lofts, 4100 Spring St, 5 <sup>th</sup> Fl, Spring Park, MN
Sa, 10/22, 9:30AM	LWV MEPH: Lauren Gilchrist Health Policy Innovation, Mtka City Hall, 14600 Mtka Blvd
Sa, 11/5 9:30AM	LWV West Metro: US Role in Education. TBD location – see our website for details later.
Fr, 11/18, 9:15AM	Citizenship Ceremony Voter Registration, Hamline School of Law, St. Paul

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Minnetonka Eden Prairie Hopkins  
**c/o Bev Montgomery**  
**14601 Atrium Way, # 333**  
**Minnetonka, MN 55345**



**Want Clout? VOTE!**