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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

MEPH

Minnetonka Eden Prairie Hopkins

January 2012

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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LWV MEPH Program: Lori Sturdevant on Saturday, Jan. 14

LORI STURDEVANT, MINNEAPOLIS STAR-TRIBUNE EDITORIAL WRITER AND COLUMNIST

9:30-11:00AM on Saturday, January 14, 2012

City Council Chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345

Lori is well known to almost all of us. She writes an Editorial Column for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Some of the recent ones are on Social Security. Voter ID. and whether women politicians are judged by what they know rather than what they wear, and therefore whether the voters truly get the information they need to make an informed decision in the voting booth. I am certain she can address any question/topic we have and be her usual informed, adroit, fun, and funny self. It will be a fine morning, an one well spent.

Be sure to tell everyone you know and join us. This will be another great meeting put on by the MEPH League of Women Voters (Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Hopkins)

Lori will also have copies of her new book for sale, about history of the Pillsbury's. So ask her about that too!

CMAL Program on Met Council, Saturday, Jan. 21

CMAL QUARTERLY MEETING, 9:30AM Refreshments, 10-noon Program/Q&A, JANUARY 21, 2012

Woodlake Lutheran Church, 7525 Oliver Ave. S., Richfield, MN 55423

Enter parking lot from Newton Ave. North of 76th St.

We will look at the interactions between the counties and the cities with the Met Council. We want to highlight what is working well, what needs improvement and what are specific problems with individual counties and cities. We have chosen two of the outer counties and one city for a panel discussion featuring:

- Anoka County Commissioner, Carol LeDoux
- Washington County Commissioner, Dennis Hegberg
- Shoreview City Councilwoman, Ady Wickstrom, former President of CMAL

CMAL (Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues) was created in 1962 with the goal of increasing the knowledge and effectiveness of metropolitan area Leagues and the public in addressing metropolitan governmental issues and problems. This makes CMAL 50 years old this year. All members of local Leagues in the seven county metro area are automatically members of CMAL and are invited and encouraged to attend the Quarterly meetings.

For more information contact:

Helga Emrich, 651-738-9085; emrichs@comcast.net or Geneva MacMillan, 952-934-3000; meandmao2@aol.com

Minnetonka City Council Candidate Forum, Jan. 25

Minnetonka City Council Candidate Forum

7:00PM, Jan. 25, 2012

Council Chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345

A public forum for the eight candidates for the open at-large seat on the Minnetonka City Council will be held on Wednesday, January 25, at 7 pm at Minnetonka City Hall. The free forum is sponsored by the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, and Hopkins.

Candidates are Patty Acomb, Joe Bodell, Bonnie Burton, John Knight, Peggy Kvam, Thom Lien, Joel Olson, and David Webb. They are running for at-large Seat B on the council, which was vacated by former council member Amber Greves, who resigned in December. The election date is Tuesday, February 14, 2012.

The LWV sponsors nonpartisan forums in an effort to educate the public about campaign issues, provide an opportunity for voters to hear candidates discuss these issues face-to-face, and stimulate public interest in the election process. Voters are invited to attend the forum and submit written questions to the candidates.

This event will be televised live and rebroadcast over the following weeks on Comcast community cable TV channel 16. It will also be available on streaming video at www.eminnetonka.com.

No unauthorized recording is allowed at LWV MEPH Candidate forums, per LWVMN policy. The LWV MEPH Candidate Forums are open to the public and all recording rights are property of LWVMEPH.

Also, we need volunteers to help with the candidate forum. Please contact Geneva MacMillan at 952-934-3000 or meandmao2@aol.com

By Cathy Parry and Geneva MacMillan, Voter Service Chairs

LWVMN Names Allie Wagstrom as Associate Director

We are pleased to announce that Allie Wagstrom will assume a new role beginning in January 2012. Allie will serve as the Associate Director of LWV Minnesota, providing oversight to the administrative and financial aspects of the organization. She will remain the staff person supporting our statewide Voter Service work and the Leaders of Today and Tomorrow program. Allie has been with LWV Minnesota since 2008 serving as the State Program Director. Prior to her work with LWV Minnesota, she served as Operations Director for the nonprofit Faith's Lodge managing their financial and administrative aspects. Join us in congratulating Allie on her promotion!

From LWVMN E-Newsletter, Laura Fredrick Wang, Executive Director of LWVMN

Jan. 9 "Faithful Citizenship and the 2012 Legislative Session" by Brian Rusche

Brian Rusche, Executive Director of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition

Monday, January 9, 7 p.m.

Star Bank Community Room, 250 Prairie Center Drive, Eden Prairie, MN

Across from the Eden Prairie Center Penney's parking lot

Brian Rusche will be speaking on "Faithful Citizenship and the 2012 Legislative Session." The new MN Census has confirmed that the child poverty rate is at 15.2%, or 192,000 children. Mr. Rusche will inform us about the sobering connections between economic justice and upcoming legislative decisions. He will take questions after his presentation. Mr. Rusche has 30 years experience in social justice advocacy. Sponsored by Progressives on the Prairie.

LWV Membership Moment: Meeting an Unhappy League Member or Anyone!

This spring, during state convention time, I had the experience of dealing with several angry League members. When you see them approaching, you can just tell that she/he is really unhappy. In fact, they look downright angry. You have a couple of choices: run the other way or find a way to turn this attitude around.

In these situations, when your members are on the offense, you may end up feeling defensive, but this isn't necessarily about you. The member's anger is far more likely based on something that has nothing to do with you. Much of it is caused by misinformation or misplaced expectations.

What these numbers mean is that when a person is unhappy, it is statistically unlikely that you are the cause of their unhappiness. Hopefully, remembering this fact will make it easier for you to brush aside any feelings of defensiveness.

So, what can you do?

Greet this person warmly and sincerely. A truly warm welcome can be totally disarming. "Hello, how can I help you?" is appropriate, even when you find this greeting is not warmly received. The next step is to acknowledge the problem. You might say, "You seem upset. What can I do to resolve your issue?"

If your member (or anyone) remains calm and can rationally answer your question, then all you have to do is help them resolve the issue. But sometimes member (or anyone) come in with so much anger that engaging them in a calm and rational manner is not possible. When this happens you need to take a different approach:

Have a goal. Decide that your goal is to resolve this member's (or anyone) issue as quickly as possible. The first few minutes you spent with an unhappy member (or anyone) can have a lasting impact. So when you go into problem-solving mode as opposed to defensive mode, you have a much greater prospect of having that member (or anyone) leave happy.

Check your own attitude. Before you start, conduct a personal inventory: Are you tense? Are you rested? Be aware of how you are feeling and what you are thinking and leave any negative emotions and thoughts at the door. You'll find it is very hard to naturally treat others well when you are distracted with other issues.

Take a breath. Taking a deep, abdominal breath can provide a few benefits for you and your member (or anyone). Good, abdominal breathing lowers your heart rate and blood pressure and brings oxygen to your brain. What that means to you is that you will be calmer and able to think more clearly. It will also keep you from matching an angry member's (or anyone) emotions.

Take notes. When you start to take notes about what this person is saying to you, he will feel like you are taking his problem seriously. There is also a side benefit. Since you can't write as fast as the unhappy member (or anyone) can speak, you can say, "I want to make sure I get all the details. Would you mind slowing down so I can get the information correct?" Once they slow down, they too can breathe and start calming down.

View the next upset member (or anyone) as an opportunity. With the right goal, good attitude, proper breathing and note taking, you can not only turn that person from unhappy to happy, you can begin the process of creating a member for life.

... and good luck!

Marcia A. Merrins, LWVUS Board of Directors Trainings and Meetings Chair, 716-672-4275, mmerrins@netsync.net

Book Review: "I'm New At Being Old" by Geneva MacMillan

The book "I'm New At Being Old" is a delightful and colorful publication by Lucy Rose Fischer, artist and writer who was an award-winning researcher specializing in the study of aging. Approaching 60, she asked herself, "How old do I have to be to follow my dream?". She embarked on a second career as artist, and now creates vibrant images on glass - painting upside down, inside out, and backward on hand-blown bowls and vases. Her work has been featured in over 50 exhibitions in the Midwest, Europe, and Israel. This most recent book celebrates her vitality, creativity, and "richness of years" as she learns she is joining a burgeoning sisterhood of older women. Her motto is "Life is a work of art. Art is a work of life". Enjoy!

By Geneva MacMillan

February 7 Precinct Caucus Night

The following Minnesota political parties will hold precinct caucus the evening of Feb. 7, 2012: Constitution Party, Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, Green Party, Independence Party and Republican Party. For information on where to go, please see the Minnesota Secretary of State website, www.sos.state.mn.us and click Elections & Voting, then 2012 Precinct Caucuses. A caucus finder will be available on the website after January 18, 2012.

Looking Ahead

Th 1/5, 6:30PM	LWV MEPH Board, hosted by Mary Tambornino, 3851 Susan Ln, Mtka, MN 55345
Mo, 1/9, 7:00PM	"Faithful Citizenship and 2012 Legislative Session", Star Bank, 250 Prairie Ctr Dr, EP
Sa, 1/14 9:30AM	LWV MEPH: Presentation by Lori Sturdevant from the Minneapolis Star Tribune
Sa 1/21 9:30AM	CMAL Met Council Panel, Woodlake Lutheran Church, 7525 Oliver Ave. S., Richfield
We 1/25 7:00PM	Minnetonka City Council Candidate Forum for At-Large Seat B Special Election
T, 2/2, 6:30PM	LWV MEPH Board, tbd location
Tu 2/7 7:00PM	Precinct Caucus. See www.sos.state.mn.us to locate your caucus.
Sa 2/11 9:30AM	LWV MEPH: Kim Labo, "Toxic Substances in Our World"
Tu 2/14 7AM-8PM	Minnetonka City Council Special Election for At-Large Seat B
Th, 3/8, 6:30PM	LWV MEPH Board, tbd location
Sa 3/17 9:30AM	CMAL quarterly meeting, tbd location
Th, 4/5, 6:30PM	LWV MEPH Board, tbd location
Th, 5/3, 6:30PM	LWV MEPH Board, tbd location
TBD	LWV MEPH Annual Meeting and Dinner
Sa 5/19 9:30AM	CMAL annual meeting, tbd location



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