

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.

<p>In This Issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWV MEPH Jan. 13: Redistricting by Steve Simon • LWV S. Tonka Jan 13: MN State Capitol Tour • “Bridges for Peace” at Al-Amaan Mosque Jan. 27 • Volunteers needed for Voter Ed Events - EP and Hopkins • 2018 Citizenship Ceremonies • LWV MEPH Nonpartisan Policy • Looking Ahead - Now Online 	<p>LWV MEPH Board</p> <p>P. Kvam - President B. Link - Treasurer M. Nelson - Secretary S. Brandt and J. Kramer - Membership N. Gooch and P. Kvam - Voter Service A. Nystuen - Programs D. Reeths - Action D. Boen and L. Hooyman, Hospitality S. Goldstein - West Metro S. Borine - Newsletter, Website G. MacMillan - UMRR ILO and CMAL</p>
--	---

**LWV MEPH Jan. 13: Redistricting for Fairness and Voter Participation
 Presented by Secretary of State Steve Simon**

9:30-11:00 AM, Saturday, January 13, 2018

Council Chambers, Minnetonka Community Center
 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345



Redistricting is redrawing state legislative and U.S. Congressional district boundaries after each ten-year U.S. census. Gerrymandering is the process of manipulating those boundary lines to control the results of elections. Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon will enlighten us on the facts, issues and solutions surrounding redistricting, gerrymandering and court involvement in this area. Sec. Simon will include other issues related to voter participation as well.

Steve Simon is the 22nd and current Secretary of State. He graduated with a B.A in Political Science from Tufts University in Massachusetts in 1992, and earned a J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1996. Simon grew up in St. Louis Park and Hopkins, and now lives in Hopkins with his wife Leia, their two children, Hannah and Noah, and rescue dog, Hugo. He is a member of LWV, among many other civic groups.

This program is free and open to the public. It is hosted by LWV Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Hopkins.

LWV South Tonka Jan. 13: Minnesota State Capitol Tour

Saturday, January 13, 2018, Tour begins at 10:00 AM Sharp. Bus will depart at 9:00 AM, TBD Minnetonka area.

We will take a free guided tour to see the restoration effort up close with an overview of Capitol history, art, architecture and state government. The tour will end in the Legislative Chamber. Photo opportunities will be available at the House Speaker’s podium. The Chief Clerk, Patrick Murphy will give a presentation about the process bills go thorough and where we as citizens can be impactful before they become law. Patrick is described by House members as a Strong voice, Well-versed, Impartial, Continuity. Patrick Murphy is a lifelong St. Paul resident, who — via unanimous vote on Jan. 6, 2014 — was elected the 31st chief clerk in the history of Minnesota House, and just the fourth since 1945.

Tours begin at the Capitol Information and Tour Center located in Room 126 on the first floor to the right side of the main (south) entrance. The State Capitol is at 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, St. Paul 55155.

RSVP required by 12/27 to Sharon Murphy Garber, 612-991-3130 or smgarber329@gmail.com. Include your name, email, cell number, and whether you plan to take the bus or drive on your own.

“Bridges for Peace” at Al-Amaan Mosque

LWV MEPH members and friends are cordially invited by the members of the Al-Amaan Mosque to their fourth “Bridges for Peace” program:

4:00-6:30PM, Saturday, January 27, 2018

Al-Amaan Center, 5620 Smetana Dr, Minnetonka, MN 55343

Have you ever wanted to hear first-hand from Muslims about the deeply held tenets and daily practice of Islam? While we live in an era of quick sound bites, taking a bit of time to dig deeper can be illuminating.

Please be our guests for an informative talk by Sh Jamel Ben Ameer, plenty of time for questions, the chance to experience congregational prayer, a tour of our worship space, and a meal with friends.

Since the Center is a place of worship, we ask our visitors to kindly observe the following etiquette to ensure the most comfortable experience:

- Guests should dress modestly. Women should cover their hair with a scarf.
- Shoes should be removed before entering the prayer halls because we put our faces down on the ground when praying. Guests will sit on chairs.
- When greeting, men and women in the Islamic faith do not shake hands between opposite genders as a sign of respect.

Thank you in advance for your understanding!

To register: <https://www.alamaan.org/bfp>

For more information: Safra Ali, Communications Manager, Safra.Ali@alamaan.org

Or Barb Westmoreland, LWVMEPH member, Barb.Westmoreland@yahoo.com

The Al-Amaan Center is located in Opus; take the Hwy 169/Londonderry exit, go west one street over to the light at Smetana and turn right/north; the mosque is on the left/west side, across the street from the very tall blue Cloud 9 building.

Hosted by Al-Amaan Center. <https://www.alamaan.org/bfp>

Volunteer for: Let Your Voice be Heard! How to Reach Out to Your Elected Officials

1:00PM Sunday, January 28, 2018

Hennepin County Library – Eden Prairie

565 Prairie Center Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Meet the nonpartisan League of Women Voters to learn how to communicate with your elected officials using the Citizen's Directory of Elected Officials. League volunteers will explain the responsibilities of each office and provide guidance on appropriate topics for contacting your government representatives. Stay after to get one-on-one assistance to look up your elected officials, get help with your Voter Registration and locate the upcoming precinct caucus for your political party. Collaborator: League of Women Voters of Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Hopkins.

LWV Members are developing the above Voter Education event for presentation at the Eden Prairie and Hopkins libraries, on Jan. 28 and Mar 6. Our **Citizen's Directory of Elected Officials** is the focus of the program. We are looking for volunteers to help with the one-on-one portion of the program. A preparation & training meeting will be held immediately after Steve Simon's program on Jan. 13th, 11-noon at Minnetonka Council Chambers. Please contact Peggy Kvam at lwvmeph@lwvmn.org, for more information and to volunteer.

Citizenship Ceremonies: Register New Citizens to Vote!

LWV members have been registering new citizens to vote at Naturalization Ceremonies for 20 years. Many of the volunteers are brand new members ...THANK YOU! At 80 ceremonies from Jan. thru Dec., 2017, we collected the forms from nearly 7,000 new citizens. Since 2007, we have carried in over 80,000 registration forms to the Secretary of State's office. The percentage of new citizens registering to vote at the ceremonies has increased...and is 90 to 95%. Please volunteer to help at any of these ceremonies by responding to jastuthman@aol.com. Thank you, Judy Stuthman

- Wednesday, Jan. 17th St. Paul 10 AM & 2 PM - International Institute of MN, 1694 Como Ave.
- Wednesday, Jan. 24th St. Paul 10 AM & 2 PM - Landmark Center, 75 5th St.
- Tuesday, Feb. 13th St. Paul 10 AM – St. Paul River Center, 175 W. Kellogg Blvd
- Tuesday, Feb. 20th Richfield 10 AM – Richfield City Hall, 6700 Portland Ave. S.
- Wednesday, Feb. 28th St. Paul 10 AM & 2 PM – Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St.
- Tuesday, Mar. 27th Minneapolis 10 AM – St. Thomas School of Law, 1101 Harmon Place
- Thursday, April 26th Maplewood 1:30 PM – Ramsey County Library – Maplewood, 3025 Southlawn Dr.
- Monday, April 30th St. Paul 10 AM – St. Paul River Centre, 175 W. Kellogg Blvd

LWV MEPH Nonpartisan Policy

LWV MEPH members hashed out a Nonpartisan Policy at our holiday party, and we are taking comments until our board meeting on Jan. 25th. Please submit comments to Peggy Kvam at lwvmeph@lwvmn.org. Below is our proposed policy.

LWV MEPH Nonpartisan Policy

The League of Women Voters Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Hopkins does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. However, LWVMEPH values the many skills and types of experience that individual members bring to the League, including those learned in public life through elective or appointive office. In fact, involvement in the public and political life of this country is something that the League of Women Voters recommends for all citizens and other members of the public.

Nevertheless, LWVMEPH believes that some basic limitations on members' political activity are necessary to protect the nonpartisanship of the League as an organization. In order to balance these goals, LWVMEPH adopts the following policy. *This policy may be reviewed and amended or readopted by the MEPH Board as needed.*

1. **Conduct.** All members, when representing the League of Women Voters in communications and at League activities, must not promote their personal support for political parties or candidates.
2. **Elected Office.** A Board member shall not run for, nor hold, any partisan elective office at any level of government. A Board member may run for or hold a local non-partisan elective office, such as school board, city council and county commissioner, after consultation with and approval by the LWVMEPH Board. The President and Voter Service Chairs shall not run for, nor hold, an elective office at any level of government.
3. **Political Party Office.** A Board member shall not serve in any executive committee position in a political party at any level of government (i.e. President, Chair, Associate Chair, Treasurer, Secretary).
4. **Political Campaigns.** A Board member shall not chair a partisan political campaign or administer fundraising for a partisan political campaign. In addition, the President and Voter Service Chairs shall not chair a campaign event, be a spokesperson, or work in any other public way in the campaign of a candidate for a partisan office at any level of government.
5. **Caucus.** In our state of Minnesota participation in precinct caucus and the candidate endorsement process is as important as our right to vote. No restrictions shall be made on members or board members regarding their personal participation in precinct caucus and party conventions at any delegate level.
6. **Media.** The President and Voter Service Chair shall not indicate her/his political affiliations or candidate preferences at any level of government in the media, including on social networking sites or other public venues that also prominently identify her/him as President or Voter Service Chair of LWVMEPH. Public notices, including campaign literature, regarding a current or former LWV member running for office should be carefully worded to avoid the appearance of LWVMEPH endorsement.
7. **Additional Clarification.** Board members shall present questions about specific situations to the LWVMEPH Board where the foregoing policies do not resolve the question.

Looking Ahead

Please stop by often to see our online calendar for LWV MEPH and neighboring Local League events at www.lwvmeph.org. We are constantly adding new events from local LWV and other groups and additional information. You can also see the LWV Twitter feed from our website; many thanks to David Reeths for bringing this feature to our site.

Upcoming programs in February will include a presentation on Community Solar research by grad students from the Humphrey Institute of the University of Minnesota, hosted by LWV MEPH; a panel on the issue of Sex Trafficking hosted by students of Hopkins High School with LWV MEPH partnering, a program on the Metropolitan Council hosted by LWV Golden Valley, and a presentation from Growth & Justice by Dane Smith, hosted by LWV South Tonka with LWV MEPH and LWV Wayzata/Plymouth partnering.

Also, mark Tuesday, February 6 on your calendars for Precinct Caucuses! Information on when and where your party's caucus will be held will available at www.MNVotes.org.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Minnetonka Eden Prairie Hopkins
c/o Barb Link
8505 Flying Cloud Dr. #303
Eden Prairie, MN 55344